

5



Kashimashi

~Girl Meets Girl~

story by
Satoru Akahori

art by
Yukimaru Katsura



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Scenario: Satoru Akahori Comic: Yukimaru Katsura
Original Character Design: Sukune Inugami
School Uniform Design: COSPA inc.



FOR A
MOMENT,
I WAS
SURE THAT
THIS WAS
WHAT THEY
MEANT BY
"LOVE."



#29 In the Bath Water

HAZU-
MU-
KUN...

AH--

YOU'LL
CATCH COLD
STANDING
OUT HERE,
DRENCHED
LIKE THAT!
COME
WITH ME!
HURRY!!

OH
NO!

SURUSH
CHOO!!!

WHA
...?

Y-YASUNA-
CHAN!

AREN'T
HOME RIGHT
NOW! IT'S
OKAY, I
PROMISE!

I DON'T
WANT
TO JUST
BARGE
IN! YOUR
PARENTS--

W-WAIT!

HUH?



NO, DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT!
I'LL GO
GET IT!
JUST GET
IN THE
BATH!

SHOVE

WHAT?!
YOU
LEFT IT
OUTSIDE
?!!

OH!
WHERE
DID YOU
PUT
YOUR
BAG?

PUT
YOUR WET
CLOTHES
IN HERE,
OKAY?

WAIT RIGHT
THERE, THE
TUB WILL
BE FULL IN
A MINUTE!

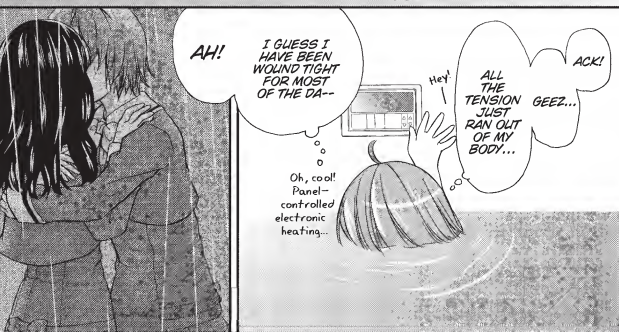
FWSH



Umm...

Huh?

SPLISH FFWSH



AH!

I GUESS I
HAVE BEEN
WOUND TIGHT
FOR MOST OF
THE DA--

Hey!

ALL
THE
TENSION
JUST
RAN OUT
OF MY
BODY...

ACK!

GEEZ...

Oh, cool!
Panel-
controlled
electronic
heating...

**NO
WAY!!**

SPLOOSH



SO...

I MEAN,
YASUNA-
CHAN
IS SO...

IT'S
WEIRD.
WHENEVER
I'M WITH
YASUNA-
CHAN...

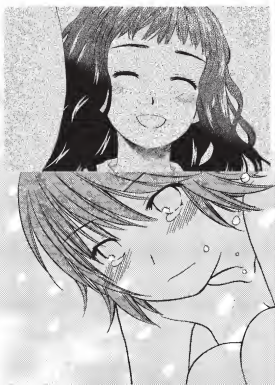
I NEVER
KNEW
I WAS
SOMEONE
CAPABLE
OF... OF...

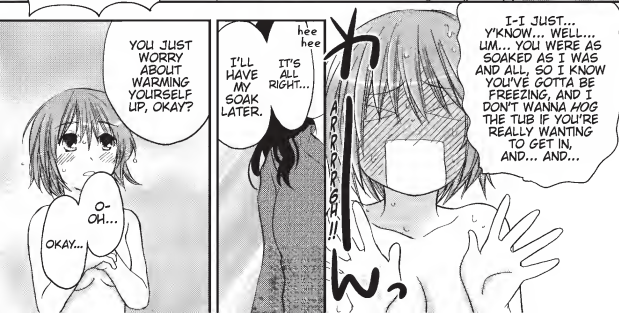
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
I DID
THAT.

I KEEP
FINDING
OUT I'M
SOMEONE
DIFFERENT
FROM WHO
I THOUGHT
I WAS.



BLRBL
BLRBL









I DON'T
REGRET
IT AT
ALL!

**NO
DOUBT!
Fuyumi!**

HM?

DO YOU
REGRET
IT?

WHAA?!
NO! I
DON'T
REGRET
IT, I
SWEAR!

OH...

AH!

BLUSH

I'M
GLAD.

HM?

DID SHE
JUST...?

THANKS
FOR LETTING
ME BORROW
THIS DRESS.
I'LL GIVE
IT BACK
TOMORROW,
'KAY?

OKAY.





OH,
OOPS!
SORRY!

NEXT TIME
YOU'RE GOING
TO BE OUT
LATE, AT
LEAST TELL
SOMEONE!

IT'S
ABOUT
TIME
YOU
GOT
BACK,
HAZUMI!

THERE
YOU
ARE!

BUT
WHY
DIDN'T
YOU CALL
ME? MY
CELL
PHONE
IS...

Your
parents
worried
themselves
sick!

SOAKED!!
ACK!!!

DROWNED.

DROWNED?



POINT
TO

YOUR
CLOTHES?

Y'SEE,
I KINDA GOT
DRENCHED ON
THE WAY HOME
FROM SCHOOL,
AND YASUNA-
CHAN DIDN'T
WANT ME
GETTING SICK,
SO SHE
INVITED ME
OVER TO HER
HOUSE, AND
I... UM...

OH,
UM...
WELL...

I SEE,
THEY'RE
YASUNA'S.
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOUR
UNIFORM?

Why is
it not
connect-
ing?

AT THAT
MOMENT,
YASUNA
IS...



BLUSH

I TOOK
A BATH
THERE...



SO WE REALLY DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE BUT TO--

WE WERE BOTH SOAKING WET, AND IT WAS GETTING DARK AND COLD...

ACK!! NO!!! IT WASN'T LIKE THAT!

I can't believe it!

OMIGOD!

YOU TOOK A BATH AT A GIRL'S HOUSE?!

NO WAY!!

YOU TOOK A BATH TOGETHER ?!

How could you?!

MY, YOU'RE TURNING QUITE RED.

WHA ?!

NO, WAIT!!

HAZUMU!!

GUYS!! STOP IT! THAT'S NOT WHAT--

SHAKE

Mother! Father! Hazumu's taking a step towards adult-hood!!

SHAKE

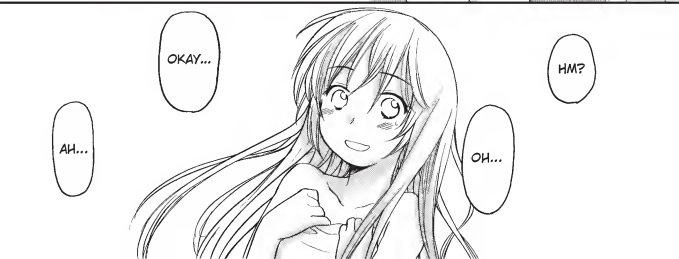
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG ABOUT TWO GIRLS BATHING TOGETHER, HAZUMU-KUN. IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.

C'MERE! NOW!!

WHA ...?

TOMARI-CHAN?





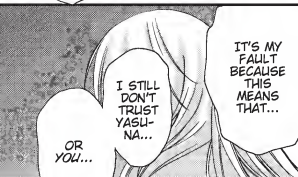




IT'S MY
FAULT FOR
NOT CALLING,
MAKING YOU
WORRY--

THAT'S
OKAY,
TOMARI-
CHAN.

NO! IT
IS MY
FAULT.



I STILL
DON'T
TRUST
YASU-
NA...

IT'S MY
FAULT
BECAUSE
THIS
MEANS
THAT...

OR
YOU...



I GOT
SO
JEAL-
OUS...

I HEARD
ONE LITTLE
THING, AND
MY MIND
JUST BLEW
IT TOTALLY
OUT OF
PROPORTION.

AND
THAT
MADE ME
DO SOME
REALLY
STUPID
STUFF.
I'M
SORRY...



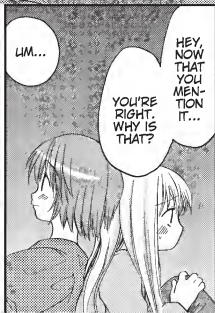
BUT WHEN
I KNOW YOU
TWO ARE OFF
SOMEWHERE
ALONE
TOGETHER, I
GET SO WORRIED
AND ANXIOUS,
IT DRIVES ME
NUTS!

I PUT
UP A GOOD
FRONT,
PRETENDING
I'M OVER IT
AND ALL...

IT'S BEEN
THAT WAY
FROM THE
BEGINNING.



!





HEY! THAT WAS WHEN WE WERE LITTLE!!

IDIOT...

I'VE FOLLOWED HER EVERYWHERE FOR AS LONG AS I'VE KNOWN HER, ALWAYS JUST ONE STEP BEHIND.

WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR A REALLY LONG TIME, TOMARI-CHAN...

I THINK I KNOW YOU PRETTY WELL, AND YOU SHOULD KNOW ME JUST AS GOOD.

OF THE TWO OF US, TOMARI-CHAN IS OLDER BY HALF A YEAR.



WHEN A REAL ONE SUDDENLY SHOWED UP, IT WAS THE MOST UNFAIR THING IN THE WORLD TO ME.

THEN...

I'M AN ONEECHAN NOW!

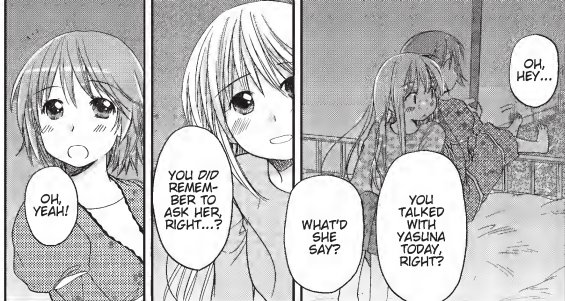
LOOK! LOOK!



SO I'M NOT GOING TO SAY STUFF LIKE THAT, OKAY...?



OKAY...



IT WAS
ALL JUST A
RUMOR THAT
GOT OUT
OF HAND.

SHE
SAID SHE
WASN'T
GOING
TO GO
TO NEW
YORK.

EVERY-
THING'S
GOING
TO BE
FINE.

OH, I
SEE...

THAT'S
GOOD...



EVERY TIME
I SEE HER,
TOUCH HER,
STRANGE
FEELINGS
START
STIRRING UP
INSIDE ME.

YASUNA-
CHAN.

SHE WAS
THE GIRL
WHO
TAUGHT
ME HOW
TO LOVE.

THE SIGHT
OF HER
SMALL BACK
HAS ALWAYS
BEEN A
SOURCE OF
RELIEF AND
SECURITY
FOR ME...

JUST LIKE
A WARM,
SOFT
BLANKET.

THE ONE
PERSON I'VE
SPENT MORE
TIME WITH THAN
EVEN MY OWN
PARENTS. SHE'S
CLOSER TO ME
THAN MY OWN
FAMILY.

TOMARI-
CHAN.

THAT WOULD
MAKE ME
THE WORST
FRIEND
EVER.

I ALMOST LEFT
THEM--RAN AWAY
FROM THEM--
WITHOUT DOING
ONE SINGLE
THING FOR
THEM IN RETURN.

LOOKING BACK
NOW, I REALIZE
I'D STARTED
TO TAKE THEIR
FEELINGS FOR
ME FOR GRANTED,
INDULGING
IN THEIR
ACCEPTANCE OF
MY INDECISION.



I NEED
TO GIVE
THEM AN
ANSWER.

BEFORE
EVERYTHING
IS OVER...

I NEED TO
GIVE THEM
AN ANSWER
SOON...



#30 On the Eve of
the Culture Festival



IT WAS SO
MUCH EASIER,
SPENDING
EVERY DAY
BEING
BOUNCY AND
CHEERFUL.



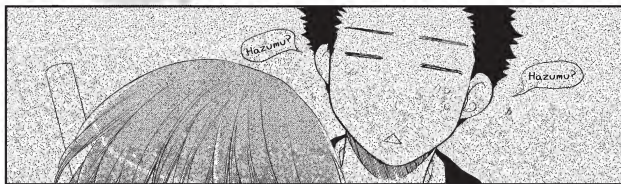
?

THAT
WAY, I
DIDN'T
HAVE TO
THINK ABOUT
WHAT'S
COMING...



HEY,
HAZUMU!

HAZUMU?



Hazumu?

Hazumu?



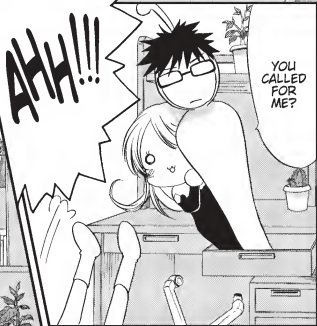
NOW
I DO HAVE
TO THINK
ABOUT IT.

BUT
NOW...

**WHAT
CAN I DO
THAT'S THE
BEST FOR
THE BOTH
OF THEM?**

**HOW
CAN I
ANSWER
THEIR
FEELINGS
FOR ME?**





WELL,
DETERMINING
IT DOWN TO
THE PRECISE
NANOSECOND
WOULD BE
DIFFICULT...

Hmm...

EXACT-
LY HOW
MUCH
TIME?

YEAH!

BUT
PERMIT ME
TO RUN THE
EXPERIMENT
A SECOND
TIME, AND WE
SHALL SEE
WHAT
RESULTS
WE GET.

ANYWAY...
CAN YOU GET A
BETTER IDEA OF
EXACTLY HOW
MUCH TIME I
HAVE LEFT?

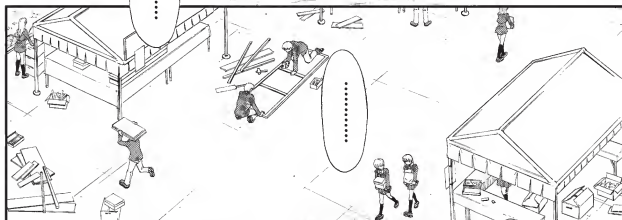
THE
DATA WILL
TAKE A DAY
OR TWO TO
ANALYZE.
I WILL
INFORM
YOU THEN.

THANK
YOU.

BY THE WAY,
HAVE YOU
DETERMINED
WITH *WHOM*
YOU SHALL
SPEND YOUR
LAST HOURS?

HM...?

MY LAST
HOURS...
I...



BTM

ARGH!!
WHAT IS
UP WITH
THOSE
THREE?!

IT'S
DRIVING
ME NUTS,
YOU HEAR!!
NUTS!!!

HAZUMI'S
TOTALLY
LOST IN HER
OWN WORLD,
THINKING
ABOUT GOD
KNOWS
WHAT!

TOMARI
DOESN'T
HAVE A
QUARTER
OF HER
USUAL
ENERGY!

AND
KAMIIZUMI
IS WALKING
AROUND
LIKE SHE'S
IN SOME
SORT OF
DAZE ALL
THE TIME!

BUT
IF YOU
HADN'T...

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?

Y'KNOW...

"BUT IF I
HADN'T..."
WHAT?
SPILL IT.

YOU TOLD
ME TO KEEP
QUIET, SO
I'M KEEPING
QUIET.

WHA?!

STRANGE, HOW
SMALL THE
THOUGHTS OF
SOME PEOPLE
CAN BE...







HAZUMI,
WHAT DO
YOU THINK
ABOUT TAKING
AN OVERSEAS
VACATION THIS
NEW YEAR?

So
we're going
to have to
be here
really
early
tomorrow
morning...

WHAT?

IT WOULDN'T BE
RIGHT FOR ME
TO BE THE ONLY
ONE WHO GETS
TO SPEND MY
LAST FEW DAYS
WITHOUT ANY
REGRETS...

I'VE ALWAYS
WANTED TO
TAKE A TRIP
OVERSEAS
WITH THE
WHOLE
FAMILY!

Right,
Mom?

You
bet,
Dad!

OR
WHAT ABOUT
AUSTRALIA?
CAN'T FORGET
ABOUT THAT
ONE!

WHERE
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO GO?
HAWAII?
GUAM?
SAIPAN,
MAYBE?

See?
I've
got tons
of brochures...

**BUT
NOW....!!**

**I HAD
ALL THAT
TIME...**

**HOW COME
I DIDN'T
REALIZE
THIS
SOONER...?**

**YOU GOING
TO THE
FESTIVAL
EVE BASH
TONIGHT?**

**NO...
I CAN'T.
I STILL
NEED
TO HELP
OUT AT
ENSEMBLE.**

**I SEE.
SOMEONE
WILL BE
STAYING
HERE THE
NIGHT,
THEN.**

**I MEAN,
THE TEAM'S
HARDLY
GOTTEN
ANYTHING
DONE.**

**AH.
I CAN'T
GO
EITHER.**



BUT I
STILL
BELIEVE
IN HER.

*IS OUR MOST
HEARTFELT
FEELINGS...*

SHE
ALWAYS
NOTICES
WHEN
SOMEONE
NEEDS
HER...

AND
SHE GOES
STRAIGHT
TO THEIR
SIDE.

ARE ALL
I THAT IT
TAKES TO
KEEP YOU
ALIVE--

HAZUMI-
KUN IS NOT
THE KIND
OF PERSON
WHO CAN
LEAVE BEHIND
SOMEONE
SHE CARES
ABOUT.

I'M NOT
SURE...

DO YOU
THINK IT'LL
WORK...?

HOWEVER,
WE CAN TRY
TO MAKE HER
TURN AROUND
AND LOOK AT
US... TO THINK
ABOUT US.



WHAT
WILL
HAZUMI-
KUN BE
DOING
TONIGHT? I
WONDER...

EVERYTHING
DEPENDS ON
HER HEART.
THERE'S
NOTHING
WE CAN DO
TO CHANGE
THAT...



NOT ONLY
WILL HE
DIE, BUT
YOU WILL
AS WELL.

SHOULD
YOUR WISH TO
BE TOGETHER
EVER LOSE ITS
PURITY, AND
YOUR HEARTS
DIVERGE...

ONE
MORE THING
YOU MUST
REALIZE. TO
TRANSPLANT
YOUR "FATE
GRAINS" AND
SHARE YOUR
FATE WITH
HIM MEANS
THAT...

ARE YOU
CERTAIN
THIS
COURSE OF
ACTION IS
WORTH THE
RISK?

DO NOT
CHOOSE
HASTILY.
WHILE YOU
YET LIVE,
FINDING A NEW
LOVE REMAINS
A VIABLE
OPTION.

THEN OUR
DECISION IS
SIMPLICITY
ITSELF.

YES.

YEAH...
BUT IT'S
NOT LIKE
WE HAVE
ANY CHOICE
IN THE
MATTER...

I WISH HER
DECISION
DIDN'T HAVE
TO BE FORCED
LIKE THIS...

THIS
TIME,
LET US
GIVE
IT TO
YOU...

THE ONE
PERSON MOST
IMPORTANT
TO HER WILL
COME RIGHT
TO MIND.

IF THE
FEELINGS
SHE'S HAD
FOR US ALL
ALONG
HAVE BEEN
"THE REAL
THING"...

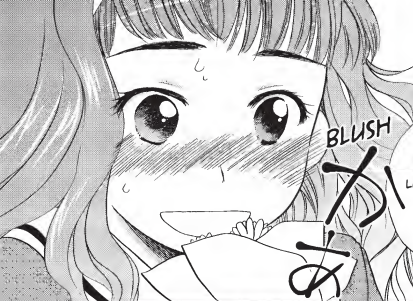
THEN
I'M SURE
WHEN
THE TIME
COMES...

PRECIOUS
LOVE...

KINDLY
LOVE...

HM...?





BLUSH

か
あ

YOU CAN HAVE THIS ONE. IT'D LOOK PRETTY NEAT IN THE MUSIC ROOM, I THINK.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GIVE IKEBANANA A TRY, SO I FIDDLER AROUND WITH IT ON SOME BOUQUETS.

It looks pretty good, don't you think?

I'll be selling ones like these tomorrow..



SURE...

BLUSH

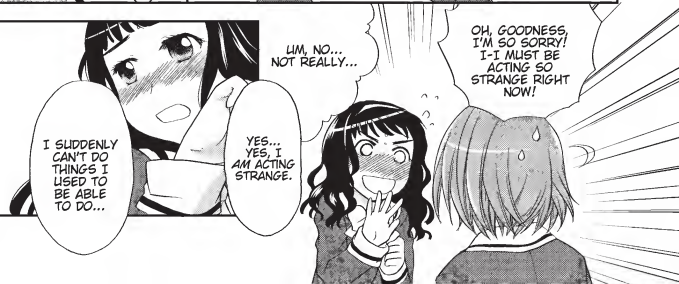
か

BLUSH

か

O-OH...
AH-HEM...
TH-THANK YOU. IT'S LOVELY.

BLUSH



I SUDDENLY CAN'T DO THINGS I USED TO BE ABLE TO DO...

YES...
YES, I AM ACTING STRANGE.

UM, NO...
NOT REALLY...

OH, GOODNESS,
I'M SO SORRY!
I-I MUST BE ACTING SO STRANGE RIGHT NOW!

I MEAN,
I NEVER
USED TO BE
SO, AH...
MOVED BY
SUCH LITTLE
THINGS...

...AND I
CAN DO
THINGS I
USED
TO BE
UNABLE
TO.

BEFORE...

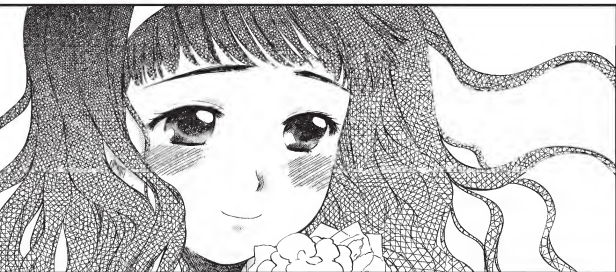
YEAH...

HAZUMU-
KUN...

I
UNDER-
STAND
WHAT
YOU
MEAN.

.....

I LOVE
YOU.



ISN'T
A TINY
BOUQUET.

RIGHT
NOW, AT
THIS
MOMENT,
THE LOVE
I FEEL
FOR YOU...

WHAT
HAZUMU-
KUN HAS
GIVEN ME...

BLOOMING
IN WHAT
USED TO BE
A BARREN
HEART.

IT'S
STRONGER
THAN
ANYTHING
I'VE EVER
FELT
BEFORE.

IT'S A
GIANT
FIELD OF
FLOWERS...



HAZUMU!



HM...?
AH.

TOMARI-
CHAN...



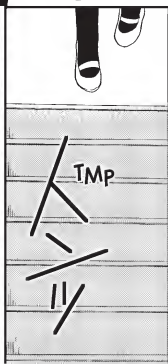
YEAH...

AH.

GOING
SHOPPING?



HUH...?



TMP



I THOUGHT
THERE WASN'T
ANY WAY I
COULD EVER
BECOME THE
"PRINCESS"...

AROUND
AND AROUND,
WE'D GO. SOME-
WHERE IN THERE,
I REALIZED THAT
I COULD PROTECT
YOU, SO I STARTED
FEELING LIKE IT
WAS MY DUTY
TO PROTECT
YOU...

THEN
I'D SEE
YOU WERE
HURT, SO I'D
TURN AROUND
AND TRY TO
PROTECT
YOU...

HEH. YOU
KNOW, IT'S
ALWAYS
BEEN LIKE
THIS,
HASN'T IT,
HAZUMU?

LIKE
THAT WAS
THE WAY
THINGS
WERE
SUPPOSED
TO BE.

WHENEVER
THERE WAS
TROUBLE,
YOU'D ALWAYS
JUMP IN AND
TRY TO
PROTECT
ME, GETTING
HURT IN THE
PROCESS.

BUT NOW
I'VE HAD
ENOUGH.
WE NEED
TO STOP
ACTING.

THEN I
COULD
STAY WITH
YOU.

I'VE
PLAYED
THAT
ROLE THIS
WHOLE
TIME,
HAZUMU...

SO I
FIGURED
THAT IF I
BECAME
THE
"PRINCE"...

HAZUMU...
I LOVE
YOU.

AS LONG AS
HAZUMI
SEES ME AS
WHO I TRULY
AM.

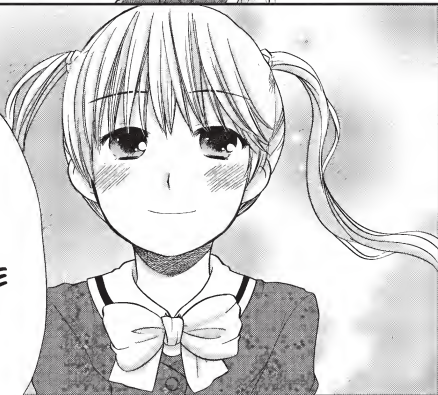
I HOPE
YOU
DON'T
MIND...



NOT AS
A LITTLE
BROTHER,
THOUGH.

I DON'T
REALLY
MIND
ANY-
MORE...

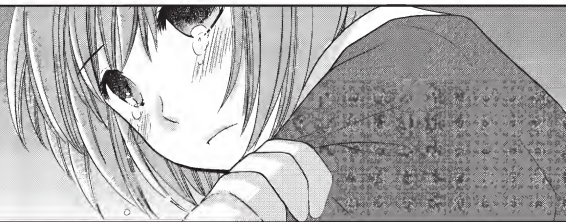
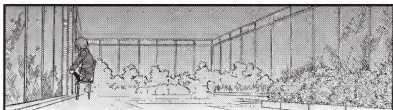
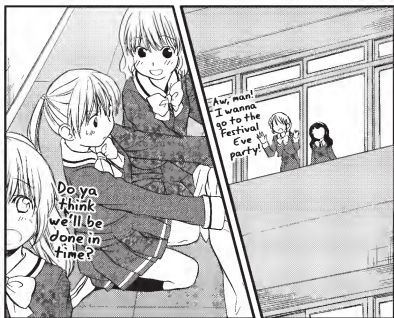
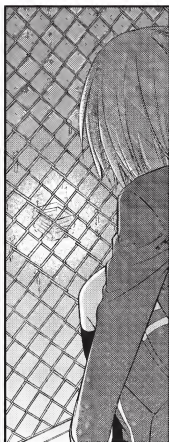
I LOVE
YOU,
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
YOU.



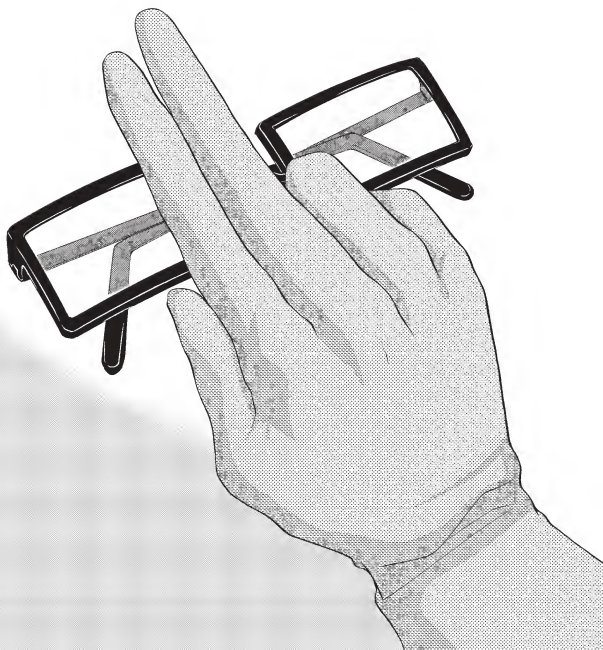
RESET IT
FROM THE
BEGINNING.

LET'S END OUR
RELATIONSHIP
HERE, HAZUMI,
AND RESTART IT.





#31 Report

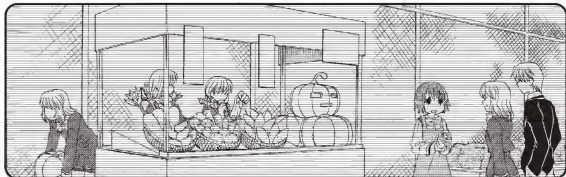


CONTINUE...

THE
REPORT.

HOWEVER,
OBSERVING THAT
"TRANQUIL STATE"
BRINGS TO MIND
COMPARISONS WITH
AN OVER-FILLED
BALLOON A NANO-
SECOND PRIOR TO
EXPLODING. THE
"CALM BEFORE
THE STORM," IF
YOU WILL.

AT PRESENT, THE
FORMER MALE
APPEARS IN ALL
SIGNIFICANT
FACTORS TO BE
IN A COMPLETELY
STABLE, TRANQUIL
STATE.



YET HE
REMAINS UN-
ENLIGHTENED
AS TO THE
SINGLE
SOLUTION
THAT MAY
POSSIBLY
SAVE HIS LIFE.
HOWEVER...

THE
FORMER
MALE'S
DEATH IS
NEAR...

THANK YOU
VERY MUCH!
COME AGAIN!

HM?

AH!
SENSEI!
DO YOU
HAVE A
MINUTE?

SO UNUSUAL,
IN FACT, THAT
AMONG ALL THE
BEINGS ON THIS
PLANET THAT
I HAVE
OBSERVED...

THAT IS
EXCEEDINGLY
UNUSUAL.

I CAN DETECT
NO DESIRE ON
HIS PART TO
EXTEND HIS
LIFESPAN.

HE IS THE
FIRST I
HAVE EVER
SEEN TO
COMPLETELY
ACCEPT HIS
FATE.



DO YOU
KNOW
EXACTLY
WHEN I'M
GOING TO
DIE?

HAVE YOU
FOUND
OUT YET?

NOT YET.
I AM STILL
PROCESSING
THE
RESULTS.



THAT I'M
GOING TO
DIE SOON
AND ALL, I'D
LIKE TO BE
ABLE TO
TELL THEM
WHEN.

OH...
OKAY. I,
UM, I WAS
THINKING
ABOUT
TELLING
EVERY-
ONE...

NOT YET.
I AM STILL
PROCESSING
THE
RESULTS.



SO YOU
HAVE ARRIVED
AT A DECISION?
WHICH ONE
WILL YOU
CHOOSE?

I'M... ALSO
THINKING ABOUT
FINALLY TELLING
TOMARI-CHAN
AND YASUNA-
CHAN HOW
I FEEL...



I'M STILL
SCARED, TO
TELL YOU
THE TRUTH.
EVEN AFTER
ALL THAT'S
HAPPENED, I'M
STILL REALLY,
REALLY
SCARED...

I...
I...



NO,
NOT THAT.

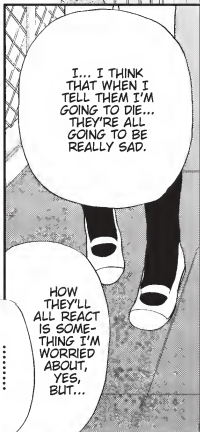
OF THE
ENDING OF
YOUR LIFE?



MAYBE IT
WOULD BE
BETTER ALL
AROUND IF I
JUST KEPT
WHATEVER
DECISION I
MADE TO
MYSELF.

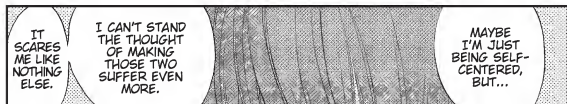
SO I
DON'T
KNOW
IF I
SHOULD
OR
NOT...

WOULDN'T IT
BE REALLY
CRUEL?
CONFESSING
YOUR
FEELINGS TO
SOMEBODY,
AND THEN
IMMEDIATELY
TELLING THEM
THAT YOU'LL
SOON BE
PARTED
FOREVER...



I... I THINK
THAT WHEN I
TELL THEM I'M
GOING TO DIE...
THEY'RE ALL
GOING TO BE
REALLY SAD.

HOW
THEY'LL
ALL REACT
IS SOME-
THING I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT,
YES,
BUT...



IT
SCARES
ME LIKE
NOTHING
ELSE.

I CAN'T STAND
THE THOUGHT
OF MAKING
THOSE TWO
SUFFER EVEN
MORE.

MAYBE
I'M JUST
BEING SELF-
CENTERED,
BUT...



IT'S...
PATHETIC,
ISN'T IT...?

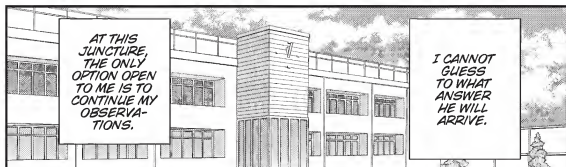
SO
I STILL
HAVEN'T
MADE UP
MY MIND
OR MY
HEART.
NOT AT
ALL.

"EMOTION"...
IS A
FORMIDABLE
POWER.

HOWEVER, IT IS
PRECISELY THAT
CONUNDRUM
WHICH HAS
FUELED HIS
RECENT,
CONSIDERABLE
GROWTH.

HE IS
CONFUSED,
AGONIZING
OVER A
DECISION
HE CANNOT
MAKE.

FOR ALL
THAT, HE HAS
COMPLETELY
ACCEPTED HIS
FATE, YET HIS
HEART REMAINS
INDECISIVE.





DESPITE THE
SIGNIFICANT
POSSIBILITY
THAT ONE OR
BOTH OF THEM
MAY VERY WELL
DIE FOR THE
SAKE OF
THEIR LOVE.

THEY
POSSESS PURE
AND STRONG
HEARTS, NEITHER
DISPLAYING ANY
SIGNS OF FEAR
OR REGRET AT
THEIR RECENT
CHOICE...

BOTH
THESE YOUNG
FEMALES
ARE HIGHLY
INTRIGUING
SUBJECTS
AS WELL.

KAMIIZUMI
YASUNA.
KURUSU
TOMARI.



KAMIIZUMI
YASUNA.

BUT IT APPEARS
THAT SHE DOES
NOT CONSIDER THAT
AS A PROBLEM OF
ANY SIGNIFICANCE.

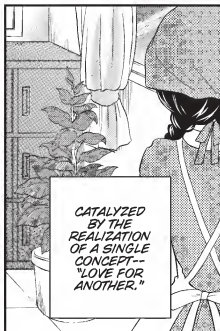
I WOULD
SPECULATE THAT
THERE IS SOME
SMALL MUTATION
TO THE NEURAL
TISSUE IN THE
VISUAL CORTEX
OF HER BRAIN...

THIS YOUNG
FEMALE IS
LITTERLY
INCAPABLE OF
VISUALLY
PERCEIVING
THE MALES OF
HER SPECIES.

OF COURSE,
IT REMAINS
HIGHLY
IMPROBABLE
THAT ANY
MALE WILL
EVER BECOME
AN OBJECT
OF ROMANTIC
LOVE FOR HER.

HOWEVER,
THIS IS NO
LONGER THE CASE.
THOUGH SHE IS
AS INCAPABLE OF
SEEING THEM AS
SHE WAS BEFORE,
SHE NOW ACCEPTS
THEIR EXISTENCE
AND INTERACTS
WITH THEM.

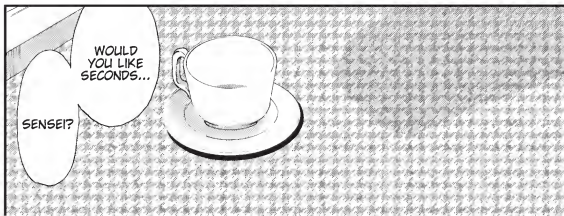
LIKELY,
KAMIZUMI
YASUNA
ORIGINALLY
CATEGORIZED
HUMAN
MALES AS
"IGNORABLE."



NOW I BELIEVE
THAT, EVEN
SHOULD THE IMPOS-
SIBLE OCCUR AND
OSARAGI HAZUMI BE
RETURNED TO HIS
FORMER YOUNG MALE
BODY, KAMIZUMI
YASUNA WOULD DIS-
PLAY NO HESITATION
IN ACCEPTING HIM
COMPLETELY FOR
WHAT HE IS.

HOWEVER,
ACROSS THE
COURSE OF
SEVERAL SHARED
EXPERIENCES,
HER DOUBTS
WERE SLOWLY
NEUTRALIZED,
LEADING HER TO
THE REALIZATION
OF TRUE "LOVE."

IT APPEARS
THAT SHE
ENTERTAINED
QUITE A FEW
DOUBTS WHEN
SHE FIRST
BEGAN TO
PERCEIVE THIS
"LOVE FOR
ANOTHER."



CORRECTION.
PERHAPS THAT
IS BETTER SAID
AS "STRENGTH
OF HEART," NOT
"PERSONALITY."

THIS YOUNG
FEMALE IS A
SPECIMEN WITH
CONSIDERABLE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THE
EXTERIOR
PERSONALITY
SHE ADOPTS,
AND THE TRUE
PERSONALITY
SHE KEEPS
CONCEALED
WITHIN HERSELF.

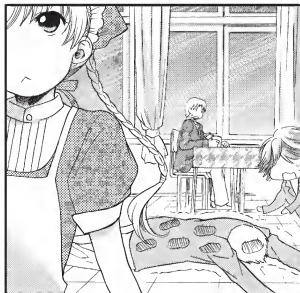


KURLISH
TOMARI.

THE EVENTS
SURROUNDING
OSARAGI
HAZUMU HIT
SQUARELY
UPON THOSE
WEAKNESSES.

HOWEVER,
WHILE HER
HEART CERTAINLY
DOES HAVE ITS
STRENGTHS, IT
ALSO CONTAINED
SEVERAL
UNAVOIDABLE
WEAKNESSES.

KURLISH TOMARI
HAS CONSISTENTLY
BEHAVED AS THOUGH
HER HEART WAS
STRONG, UNDIVIDED
AND CONFIDENT.



THAT PROVIDED,
TO USE THE
EARTH VERNAC-
ULAR, "A RUDE
WAKE-UP CALL"
TO HER, FORC-
ING HER, FOR
THE FIRST TIME,
TO REALIZE THE
TRUE CONDITION
OF HER HEART.

HEY!
YASUNA!

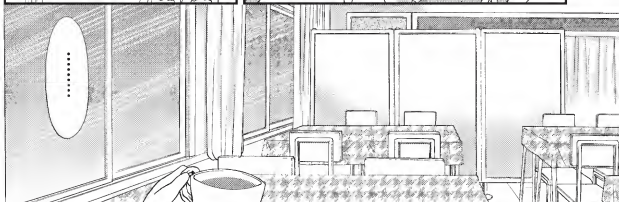
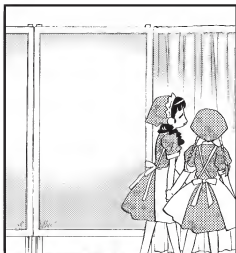
SHE IS
PREPARED
AND
DETERMINED
TO FACE
OSARAGI
HAZUMI'S
LAST HOURS
TOGETHER
WITH HIM,
WHATEVER
MAY COME.

THOUGH
SOME WEAK-
NESSES
DO REMAIN...

TO THE
PRESENT
TIME, SHE
CONTINUES
TO MAKE
EFFORTS
TOWARDS
BECOMING
EVEN
STRONGER.

KURUSU
TOMARI
BECAME
STRONGER.

INTERESTINGLY,
WHEN FACED
WITH THE
REALITY OF HER
WEAKNESS...



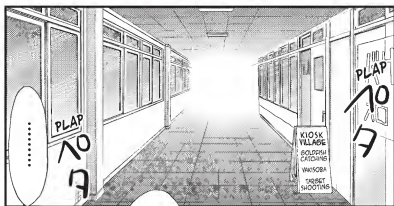
.....

A CHANCE
MEETING WITH
THOSE THREE
GAVE ME THE
OPPORTUNITY TO
OBSERVE "LOVE"
FROM ITS
NASCENT STAGES
TO FULL BLOOM.

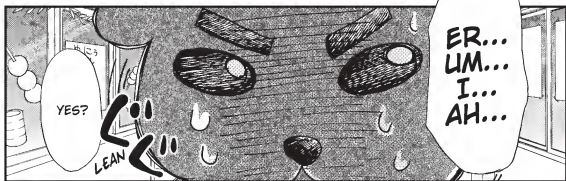
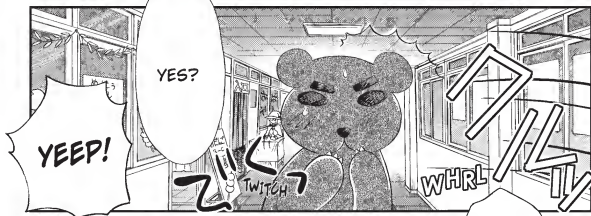
KURUSU
TOMARI.

KAMIZUMI
YASUNA.

OSARAGI
HAZUMI.



THAT... WAS AN
UNEXPECTED
BOON OF
ENORMOUS
PROPORTIONS.



UH,
BESIDES
THAT
ONE YOU
TOLD US
ABOUT
BEFORE.

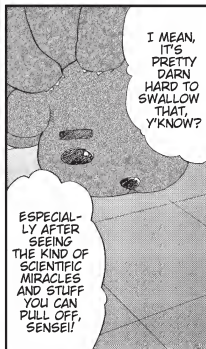
ARE
YOU SURE
THERE'S
REALLY
NO WAY
TO SAVE
HAZUMU?





THEN YOU COULD, LIKE, MAKE A SUPER-CLONE OR SOMETHING, AND TRANSPLANT HAZUMI'S SOUL INTO IT! HOW'S THAT FOR AN IDEA?!

HEY, IF YOU NEED PARTS OR ANYTHING, GO AHEAD AND TAKE MINE! ARM, LEG, ORGANS, WHATEVER! TAKE IT!



I MEAN, IT'S PRETTY DARN HARD TO SWALLOW THAT, Y'KNOW?

ESPECIAL-
LY AFTER
SEEING
THE KIND OF
SCIENTIFIC
MIRACLES
AND STUFF
YOU CAN
PULL OFF,
SENSEI!

.....

HOWEVER, THE EMOTION CALLED "FRIENDSHIP" THAT HE FEELS TOWARDS OSARAGI HAZUMI IS ACTUALLY QUITE DEEP.

HIS OFFER OF HIS OWN BODY PARTS IS UNDOUBTEDLY A HEART-FELT ONE.



THIS PARTICULAR YOUNG MALE FALLS INTO THE CATEGORY LABELED "LOSER" BY THE OTHER DENIZENS OF THIS PLANET. AT FIRST GLANCE, HE APPEARS TO BE A VERY LOW-LEVEL, SIMPLISTIC LIFE FORM.



LOST ALL FEELING FOR THE OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR OWN RACE.

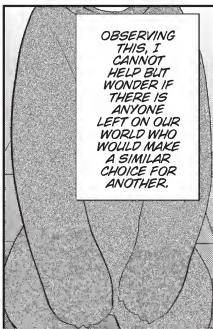
ARE WE--

SEN-
SEI?



WE HAVE LOST "EMO-
TION"...

LOST "LOVE"...



OBSERVING THIS, I CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER IF THERE IS ANYONE LEFT ON OUR WORLD WHO WOULD MAKE A SIMILAR CHOICE FOR ANOTHER.

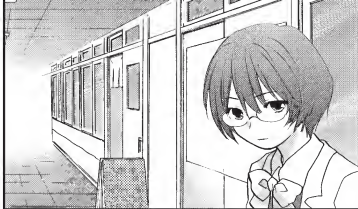


HOWEVER...

THAT IS MY DUTY.

OBSERVATION.

ALL I CAN DO IS WATCH.



YET...

SHE IS
EMINENTLY
FIT TO
BE AN
OBSERVER.

OBJECTIVE
THOUGHT
PROCESS.

LEVEL
GAZE.



I AM
NOT THE
ONLY ONE.
SHE ALSO
OBSERVES.



THAT IS
QUITE THE
DIFFICULT
TECHNIQUE
FOR A LIFE
FORM THAT
ETERNALLY
WRESTLES
WITH
EMOTION.

THE TRUTH
ALWAYS
REMAINS
CONTAINED
BENEATH
IT, RARELY
SLIPPING
TO THE
SURFACE.

HER OUTWARD
APPEARANCE
IS, IN THE END,
LITTLE MORE
THAN A
HOLLOW MASK.

CURSORY
OBSERVATIONS
MAY LEAD ONE TO
CONCLUDE THAT SHE
IS AS IMPARTIAL AND
DISTANT AS WE ARE.
HOWEVER, IN TRUTH,
THAT IS BUT A THIN
VENEER. UNDER-
NEATH HER COOL
EXTERIOR LIES
WARM, INTENSE
EMOTION.

SHE
DIFFERS
FROM
OUR KIND
GREATLY.



IN FACT, I WOULD NOT CONSIDER IT HYPERBOLE TO STATE THAT THERE ARE AS MANY EXPRESSIONS OF "LOVE" AS THERE ARE BEINGS ON THIS PLANET.

IT IS EXPRESSED IN INNUMERABLE FASHIONS.

PREVIOUS REPORTS THAT PIGEONHOLE "LOVE" AS NO MORE THAN ONE OF MANY STEPS IN THE MATING PROCESS ARE INCORRECT.

DETERMINING A MORE SPECIFIC CLASSIFICATION FOR "LOVE" IS HIGH IMPOSSIBLE.

AMONG ALL OF THE EMOTIONS THAT CAN MOVE A LIFE FORM'S HEART, THE LOFTIEST ONE IS "LOVE."



SHE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE WORST RESULT WILL OCCUR. OF THAT, I AM CERTAIN.

HENCE, HER ACTION'S ALSO CONSTITUTE "LOVE."



**SORA-
SENSE!!!!**

WHOOOSH



AT THE
PRESENT
MOMENT,
FURTHER
DETAIL IS
UNNECES-
SARY.

HOWEVER, I
WILL DISCUSS
MY OBSERVA-
TIONS OF HER
AT A LATER
POINT.

THIS ADULT
FEMALE'S
ACTIONS ARE
MOTIVATED
BY "LOVE"
AS WELL.

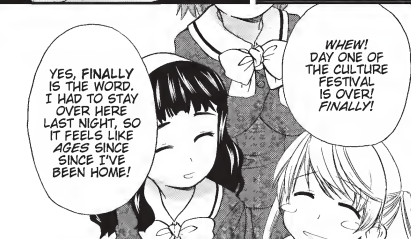
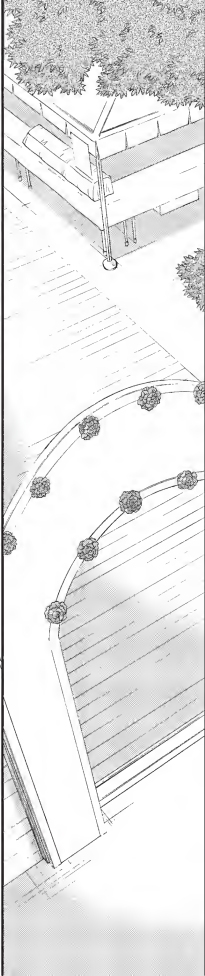
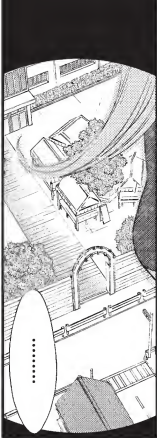
I WOULD
ASSUME
HERS TO
BE QUITE
LARGE.

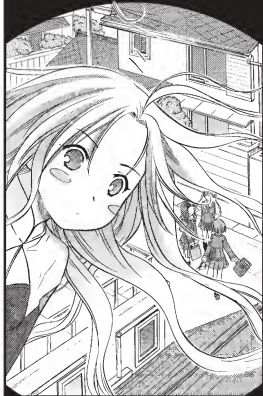
HOWEVER,
IF IT WERE
THEORETI-
CALLY
POSSIBLE...

THERE ARE
NO OBJECTIVE
MEANS OF
MEASURING ANY
QUANTIFIABLE
DIMENSIONS
OF "LOVE."

UNFORTU-
NATELY...





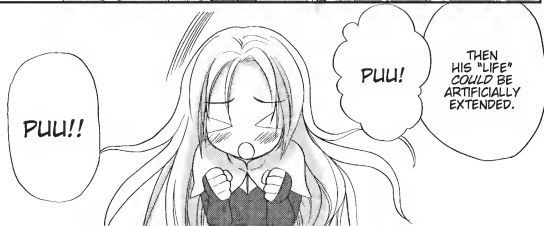


PERHAPS
THIS IS A
SIGN THAT
EVEN A
SIMPLE AI
INTERFACE
IS MORE...
HUMAN THAN
WE ARE.

CERTAINLY
THIS IS AS
A RESULT OF
INTERACTING
WITH OSARAGI
HAZUMU AND
THE OTHERS.

"JAN-PUU,"
ORIGINALLY
NOTHING
MORE THAN
A SMALLER
MANIFESTATION
OF THE AI
CAPABILITIES
OF MY SHIP, IS
BEGINNING TO
SHOW BEHAVIORS
REMARKABLY
SIMILAR TO
EMOTION.

ADDITIONALLY,
AN INTRIGUING
ANOMALY HAS
APPEARED.



PULU?

YET
COULD
YOU STILL
CREDIBLY
CALL THE
RESULT
"HIM"?

IT WOULD BE
NOTHING MORE
THAN A DIGITAL
BOX CONTAINING
A SNAPSHOT OF
HIS CONSCIOUS-
NESS.

PULU...

HE
WOULD NO
LONGER
EVEN
TRULY BE
ALIVE.

IF I WERE
TO CON-
VERT HIM
TO AN AI
PROGRAM,
HE WOULD
NO LONGER
BE HUMAN.

WE
ARE NOT
GODS.

PULU...

AN EXCESS
OF "LOVE"
IS NOT AN
EXCUSE TO
DO WRONG.

HOWEVER,
I HAVE NO
INTENTION
OF PUTTING
SUCH A PLAN
INTO ACTION.

HER IDEA IS
CERTAINLY
FEASIBLE. BY
CONVERTING HIS
MEMORIES TO
AI, IT WOULD BE
POSSIBLE TO
EXTEND OSARAGI
HAZUMI'S "LIFE,"
THEORETICALLY
FOR ETERNITY.

YET SHE
SEEMS TO
HAVE GRASPED
THE CONCEPT
OF "LOVE,"
PERHAPS
EVEN MORE
COMPLETELY
THAN I.

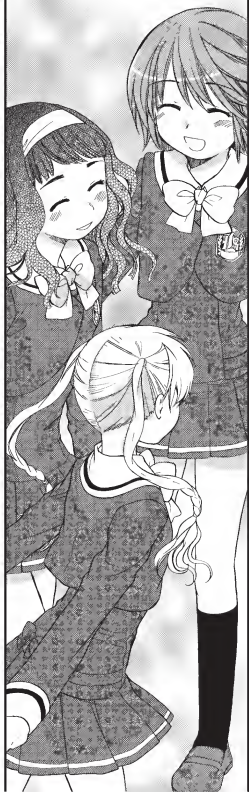
JAN-PULU
SHOULD BE
NOTHING
MORE THAN
AN ARTIFICIAL
CREATION...

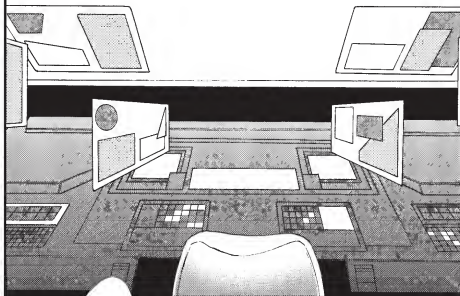
HOW
VERY, VERY
INTRIGUING.

IS OBSERVE.

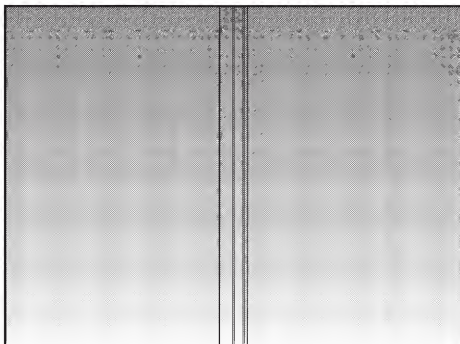
IN THE
END, ALL I
CAN DO...

A SIMPLE
RECORDING OF
HIS MEMORIES
WOULD BRING
JOY TO NO ONE.

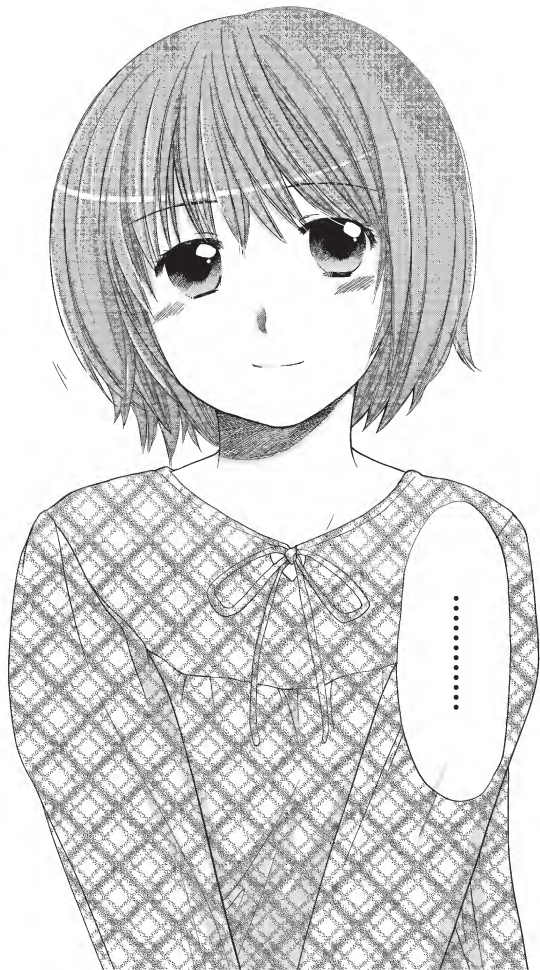




FINISHED,
HM?





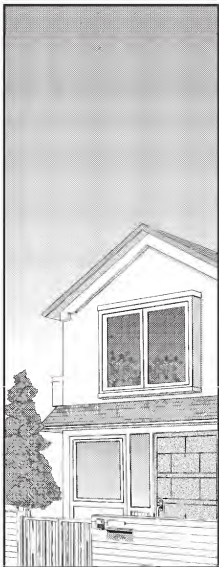
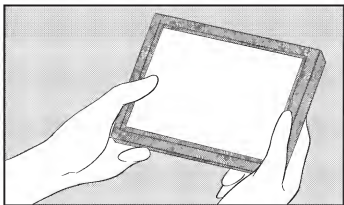
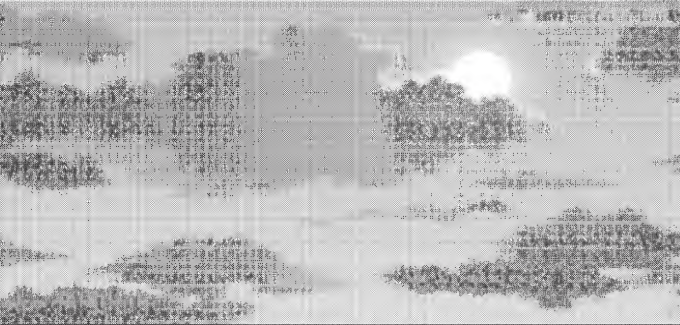


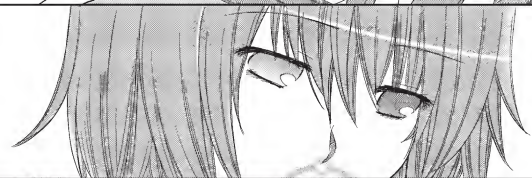
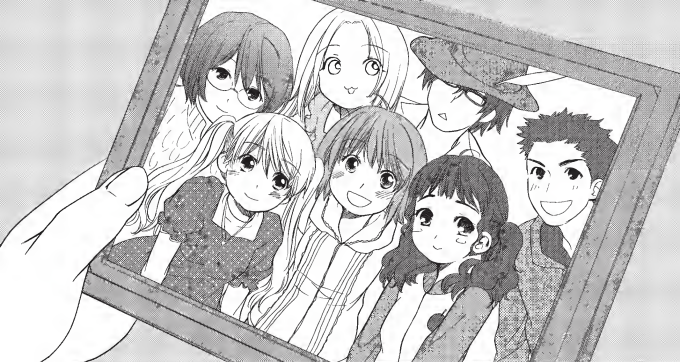
*I WILL
NEVER...*

EVER...

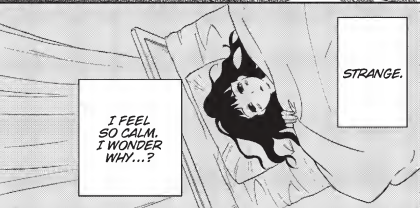
*FORGET
YOU...*

#32 The Last Day





I...



*I FEEL
SO CALM.
I WONDER
WHY...?*

STRANGE.

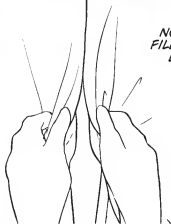


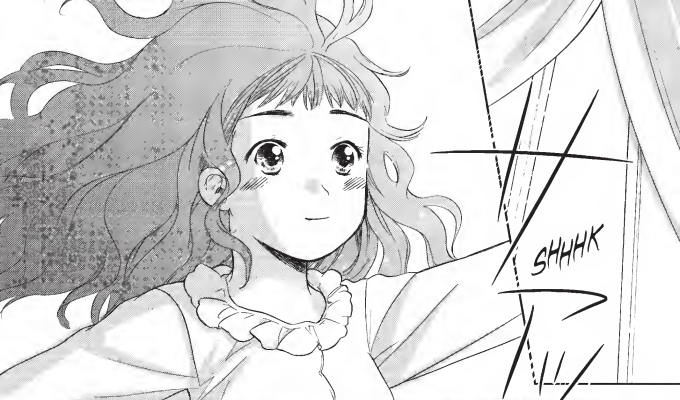
*IS
HAZUMI-
KUN.*

*THE ONE
WHO GAVE
ME THAT
LIGHT...*

*BUT
NOW IT'S
FILLED WITH
LIGHT.*

*MY HEART
WAS BURIED
IN DARKNESS
FOR SO
LONG...*





HAZUMI-
KUN IS THAT
LIGHT.

NO,
THAT'S
NOT
QUITE
RIGHT.

AT THIS MOMENT... RIGHT NOW, I AM... HAPPY.



I CAN
ACCEPT
WHATEVER
MAY
HAPPEN.

IF IT
IS FOR
HAZUMI-
KUN'S
SAKE, THEN
I CAN DO
ANYTHING.



I JUST
CAN'T
SEEM TO
SETTLE
DOWN.

WEIRD.



HAZUMU...

THAT
MEANS
IT'LL BE
ANYTIME
NOW...

IT'S BEEN
ALMOST
30 DAYS,
HASN'T IT?

THE
THOUGHT THAT
HAZUMU MIGHT
DIE KEEPS
BOUNCING
AROUND IN THE
BACK OF MY
MIND, AND
I CAN'T...

I CAN'T
JUST SIT
BACK AND
BE CALM
ABOUT THIS
WHOLE
THING!



NO
MATTER
HOW HARD
I TRY
OTHERWISE,
MY LINEASE
KEEPS
GETTING
WORSE BY
THE DAY.

GOD, I'M
HOPE-
LESS.
TOTALLY
HOPE-
LESS.



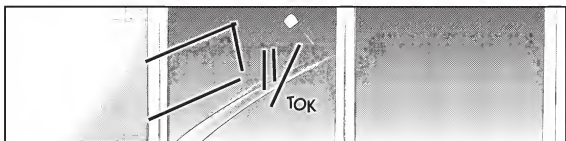
I CAN'T...





I'LL
NEVER
MANAGE
TO BE
LIKE
YASUNA.

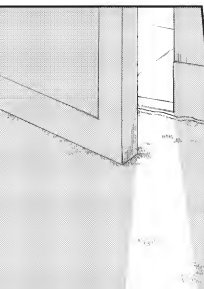
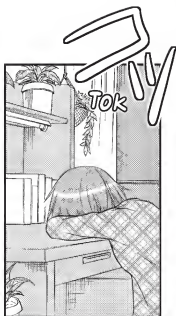
I GUESS...



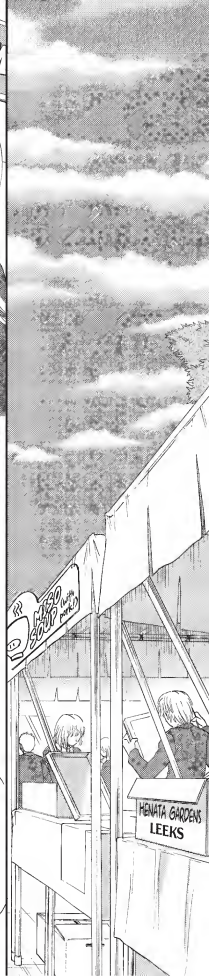
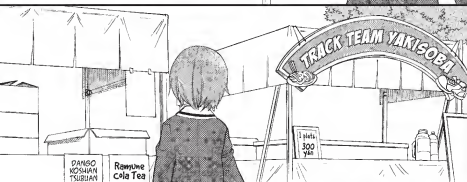
MAYBE
SHE'S
ALREADY
GONE...

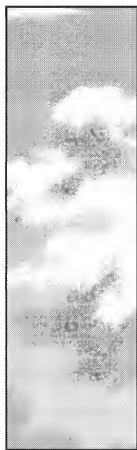


TOK









WOW.
THAT'S...
BEAUTIFUL...

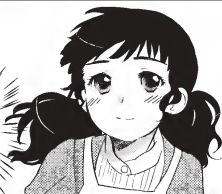


OKAY.

I'LL
BE BACK
IN A
MOMENT.



I WANT
TO SEE
HAZUMU-
KUN...



HAZUMU-
KUN...

OH...



NOPE.
SORRY.
YOU JUST
MISSED
'EM.

HUH?
THEY'RE
NOT
HERE?



HEY...

DON'T
CRY.

IT'LL
BE
OKAY!



OH
GOD!

YOU
OKAY
?
I'M
SO
SOR-
RY...



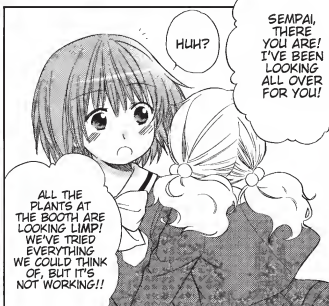
WAAAAH!

WHOOOPS!

THUD

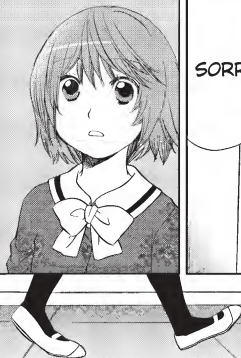
OW!





I WISH I
COULD SAY
THEY WERE.
YOU'VE JUST
HAD SOME
PRETTY
BAD TIMING
TODAY!

OH...

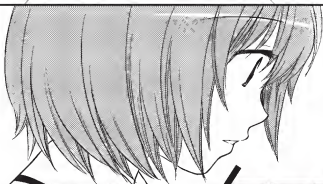


SORRY!

WHAT?
THEY'RE
STILL
NOT
HERE?!



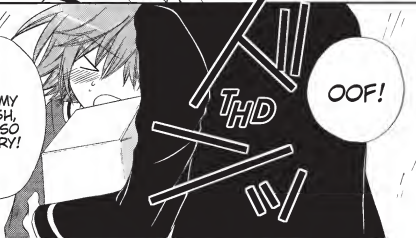
.....

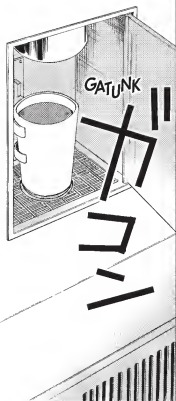


OH MY
GOSH,
I'M SO
SORRY!

OOF!

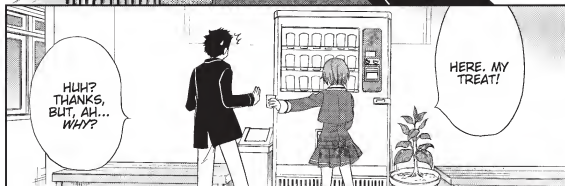
THD





AH!

NO, IT'S
OKAY. I
SHOULD'VE
BEEN--
HUH?



HUH?
THANKS,
BUT, AH...
WHY?

HERE. MY
TREAT!

Man,
it's so
awesome
to be
able to
hang out
with a bunch
of babes,
ha ha!

WE CAN GO
FIND TOMARI
AND YASUNA
QUICK, SO,
UH... HOW
ABOUT IT?

W-
WITH
THE
OTHERS
TOO, OF
COURSE!

YOU
WANT TO
GO TAKE
A LOOK
AROUND
ALL THE
BOOTH'S?

HEY...
UM...

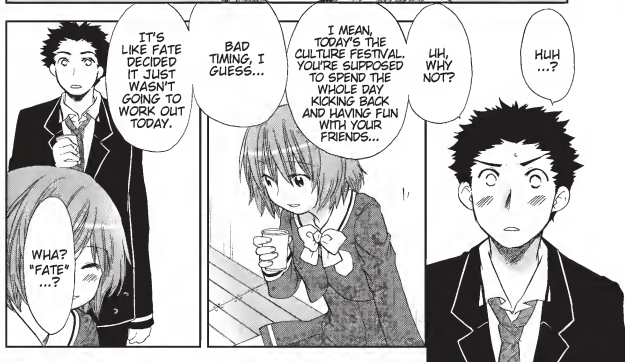
O-
OH...

.....

Ah...

IT'S
NOT LIKE
I'M GOING
TO NEED MY
ALLOWANCE
ANYMORE.

JUST
BECAUSE.





SOMETHING'S
TELLING ME
THAT IT'S NOT
GOING TO
HAPPEN, THAT I
SHOULD JUST
SHUT UP AND
FADE AWAY.



AND I
WON'T
BE...
HERE...
TO SEE
THEM
ANYMORE,
STARTING
TOMOR-
ROW...

I DON'T
NEED TO
SEE THEM
TODAY.



NO, IT'S
OKAY,
ASUTA.
REALLY.

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.



Y'SEE,
GOD HAS
TOLD ME
THAT.



HM?



HAZUMU.



HAZUMU-
KUN...

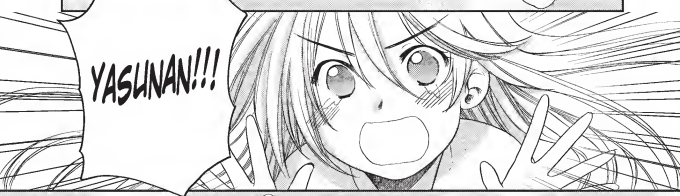


HM?



YASHINAN!!!

WHUMP



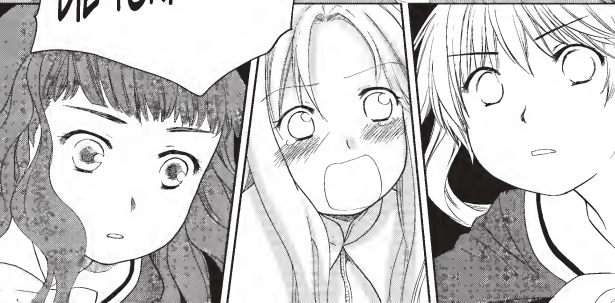
SORRY...
IT'S A BAD
CASE OF
HAZUMU
WITH-
DRAWAL.



YOU
DON'T
LOOK
LIKE
YOUR
NORMAL
SELF.

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?







HAZUMU-
KUN...

MY DOUBTS
ARE GONE.

I WILL NOT
LOSE THIS
LIGHT.



**JUST LIKE THE
JIAN BIRD.**



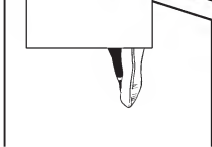
**I
REFUSE
TO!**



**THIS
IS THE
REASON
I WAS
BORN.**



**I WAS
BORN TO
LIVE WITH
HAZUMU-
KUN...**



**I WAS
BORN
FOR THIS
LOVE...**

WHAT
TO DO?
THAT'S
THE EASY
PART.



I...

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT TO
DO ANY-
MORE...



I...

THMP



JUST DO
WHAT
YOU'VE
ALWAYS
DONE.



DO WHAT
YOU'VE
ALWAYS
DONE SINCE
YOU WERE
A LITTLE
CHILD.

MAYBE
EVEN TRY
SCREAM-
ING LIKE
YOU DO
SOME-
TIMES.

CRY
LIKE YOU
ALWAYS
HAVE.

GET MAD
LIKE YOU
ALWAYS
HAVE.



THAT'S
THE WAY
YOU'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN WITH
HAZUMI-
KUN...
RIGHT?

AFTER
ALL....



AND
THAT'S
THE WAY
IT ALWAYS
WILL BE!



THAT'S
RIGHT...
THAT'S
THE WAY
IT'S
ALWAYS
BEEN...

DON'T LET
FATE STEAL
HAZUMI-KUN
AWAY...

GO.





#33 Decision



WHAT'S
FATE GOT
TO DO WITH
ANYTHING?!

WHAT'S
GOD GOT
TO DO
WITH ANY-
THING?!

YOU'RE
TRYING TO
SAY THAT YOU
JUST DON'T
CARE ABOUT
THOSE TWO
ANYMORE?!
THAT YOU
DON'T LOVE
THEM?!



YOU DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING!!



I...

ANSWER
ME!
DO YOU
LOVE
THEM?

ASLITA!
HOW
CAN YO--



VERY
SOON.

KNOWING
THAT, HOW
CAN I GO UP
TO SOMEONE
AND SAY I
LOVE THEM?!!
IT'D BE
WRONG!!

I'M GOING
TO... TO
HAVE TO
LEAVE ALL
OF YOU
SOON.

I HAVE
A SECRET.
ONE I
HAVEN'T
TOLD
ANYONE
YET...

TWITCH

IT'S
POINT-
LESS!

I MEAN,
NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
WE LOVE
EACH OTHER,
SECONDS
AFTER I TELL
THEM, I'LL BE
GONE!!

YANK

LIKE
HELL
IT IS!!



WE'VE
KNOWN
THIS
WHOLE
TIME!!

ALL OF
US.

WE
KNOW.

WE KNOW,
HAZUMI...



LOVE IS ITS
OWN THING,
RIGHT? JUST
A 'YES' OR A
'NO,' THAT'S
ALL.

FATE,
GOD, TIME...
THEY DON'T
REALLY HAVE
ANYTHING TO
DO WITH IT.

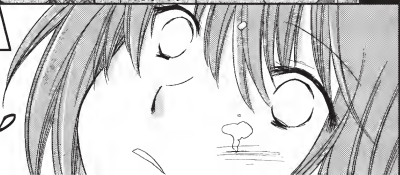


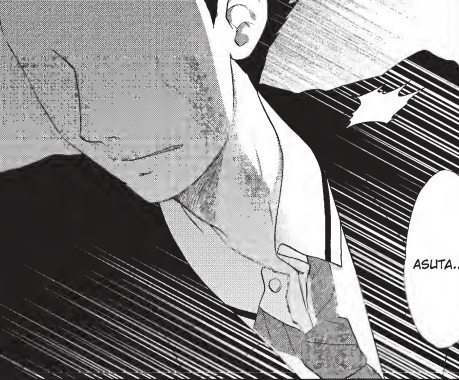
**THEY KNEW...
THEY KNEW,
AND STILL
THEY...**



I...

PLIP





ASUTA...



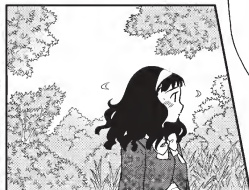
ASUTA...

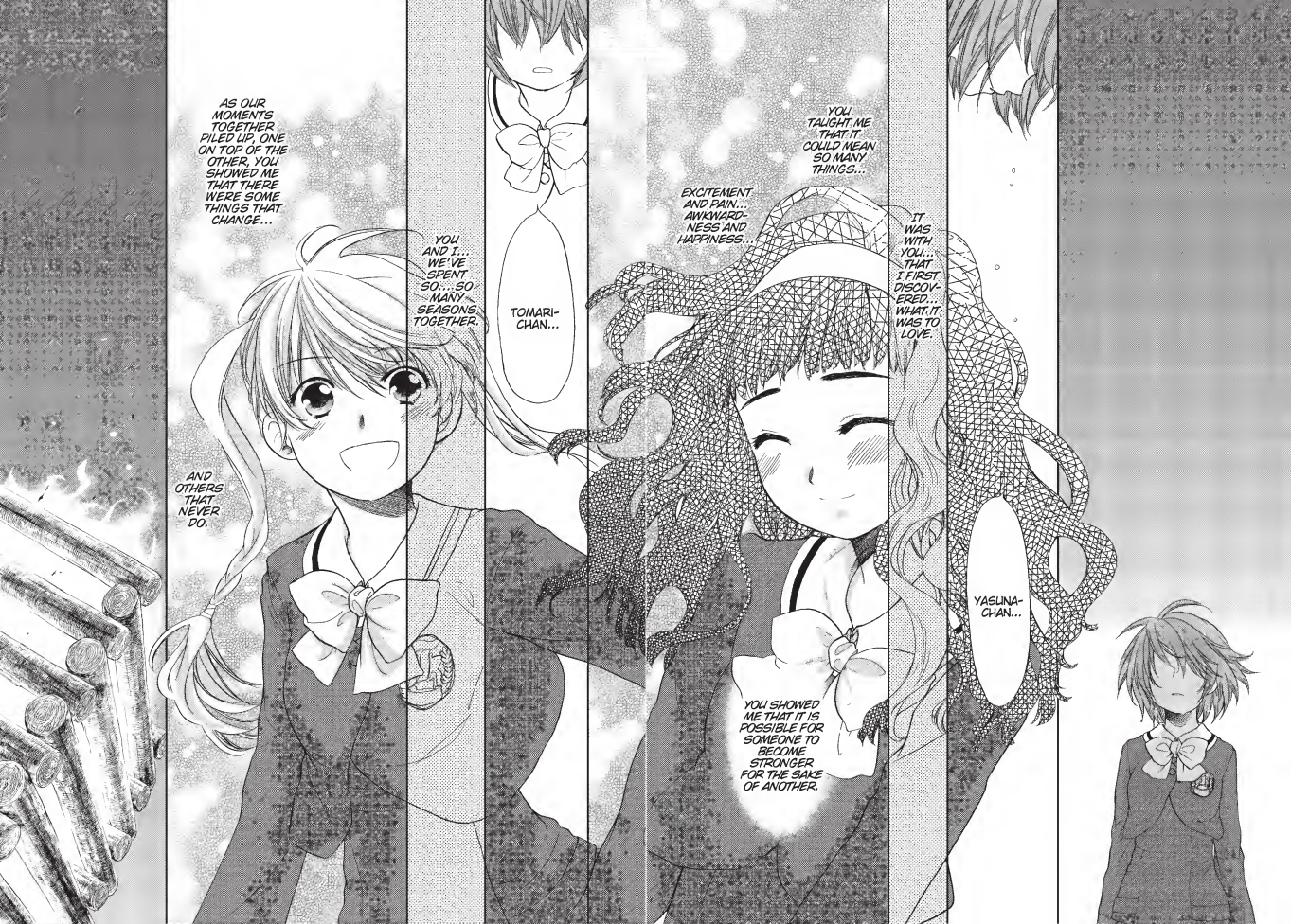
I
REALLY
AM.

ASUTA,
I'M
SORRY...



I'M GLAD
YOU'RE
MY BEST
FRIEND.





AS OUR
MOMENTS
TOGETHER
PILED UP, ONE
ON TOP OF THE
OTHER, YOU
SHOWED ME
THAT THERE
WERE SOME
THINGS THAT
CHANGE...

AND
OTHERS
THAT
NEVER
DO.

YOU
AND I...
WE'VE
SPENT
SO... SO
MANY
SEASONS
TOGETHER.

TOMARI-
CHAN...

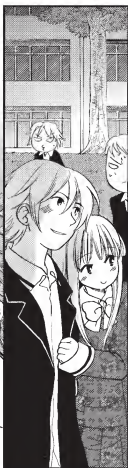
EXCITEMENT
AND PAIN...
AWKWARD-
NESS AND
HAPPINESS...

YOU
TAUGHT ME
THAT IT
COULD MEAN
SO MANY
THINGS...

IT
WAS
WITH
YOU...
THAT
I FIRST
DISCOVERED...
WHAT IT
WAS TO
LOVE.

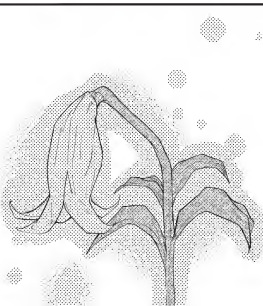
YASUNA-
CHAN...

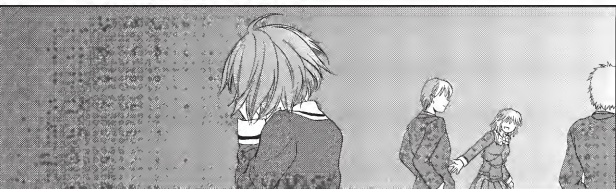
YOU SHOWED
ME THAT IT IS
POSSIBLE FOR
SOMEONE TO
BECOME
STRONGER
FOR THE SAKE
OF ANOTHER.



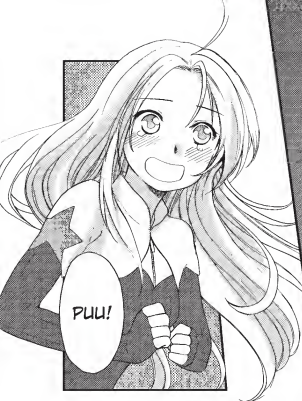
KRKL

KRKL

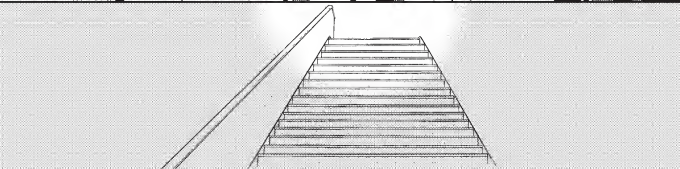
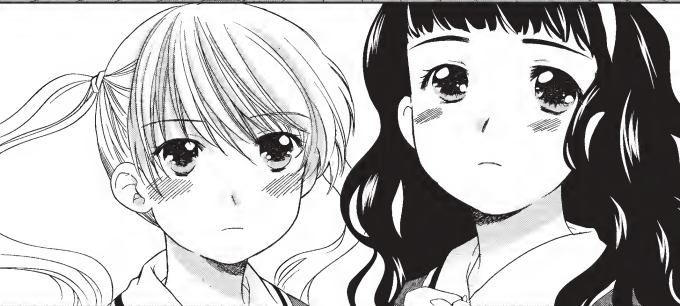
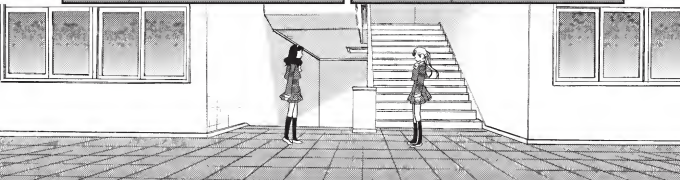
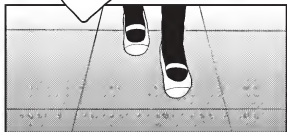
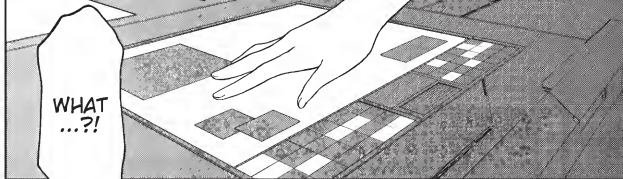




I WANT
TO SEE
THEM.





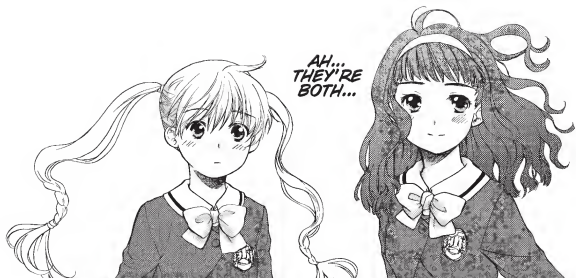




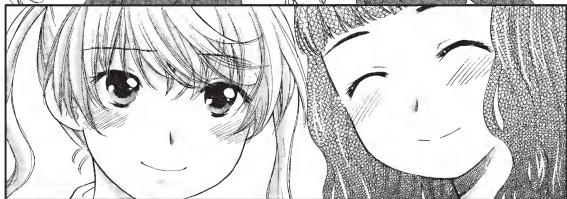
HM...?







AH...
THEY'RE
BOTH...



I DON'T
HAVE
MUCH TIME
LEFT.

I'M
SORRY.

OH,
WHERE
TO
START?

NO MORE
MEMORIES.

I CAN
GIVE YOU
NO MORE
SOLIVENIRS...

STILL...

I WILL
THINK
OF ONLY
YOU.

DURING MY
VERY LAST
MOMENT...

SO
PLEASE,
FOR ONE
LAST
TIME...





LET
ME SAY...
"I LOVE
YOU."



INCON-
CEIVABLE...



AN ERROR
OF THIS
MAGNITUDE
HAS NOT BEEN
SEEN SINCE
THE EARLIEST
DAYS OF THE
UNIVERSE!

SENSEI!

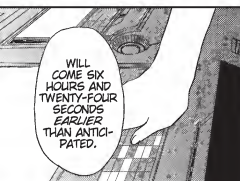
A
ONCE-IN-
15-BILLION-
YEARS
MISTAKE...

WHAT
HAPPENED?

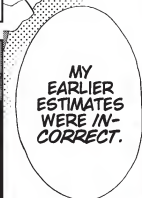


THE
DIFFERENCE,
ADJUSTED TO
THIS PLANET'S
CHRONOLOGICAL
INCREMENT-
S, IS APPROXIMATE-
LY 21,642
SECONDS.

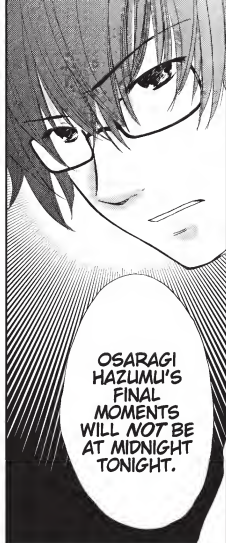
HIS
DEATH...



WILL
COME SIX
HOURS AND
TWENTY-FOUR
SECONDS
EARLIER
THAN ANTICI-
PATED.



MY
EARLIER
ESTIMATES
WERE IN-
CORRECT.

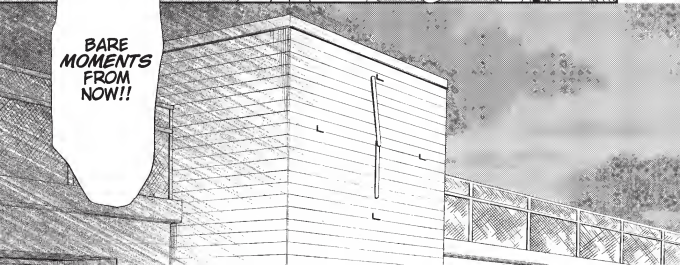


OSARAGI
HAZUMU'S
FINAL
MOMENTS
WILL **NOT** BE
AT MIDNIGHT
TONIGHT.



IN
OTHER
WORDS...

IT WILL
BE AT
6 PM
TODAY...



**BARE
MOMENTS
FROM
NOW!!**



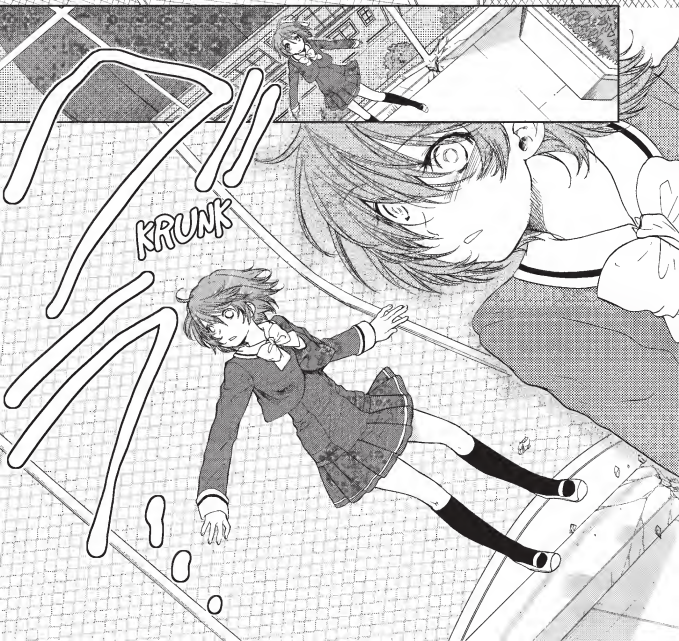
I
THINK...

NO, I
KNOW...

MY TRUE
FEELINGS...
ARE...



I...





IS
EVEN
THIS...



AM I...

DYING...?

#34 Connected Hearts

I AM SO...

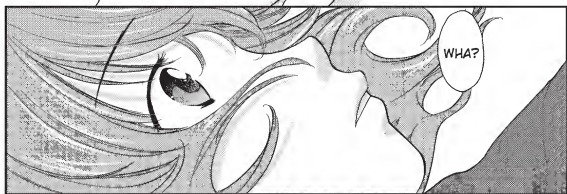
SO
STUPID.

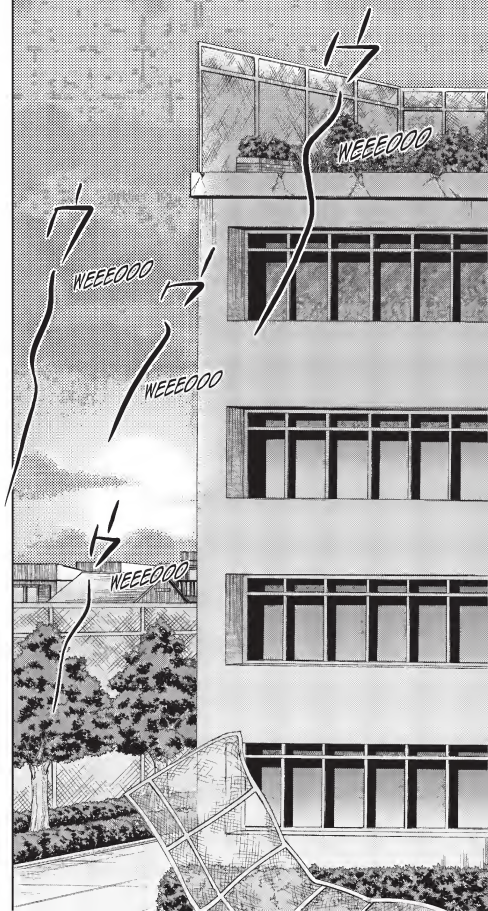
MH...

IN THE END,
I COULDN'T
TELL THEM.

I TRIED...
BUT I
COULDN'T.

I SHOULD'VE
TRIED HARDER...
MADE UP MY
MIND SOONER...







MMH...
WHA...?



I DIED.



OH
YEAH...
THAT'S
RIGHT.



SHE'S...
NOT
HERE.



.....



OR
THERE.

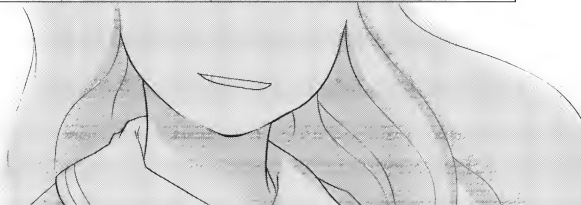
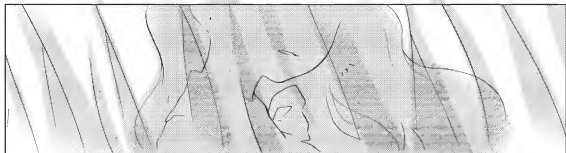




I DON'T
SEE HER
ANYWHERE...

OR THERE
EITHER...!

NOT OVER
HERE...





**I'M
WAITING.**



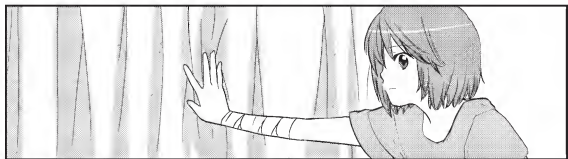
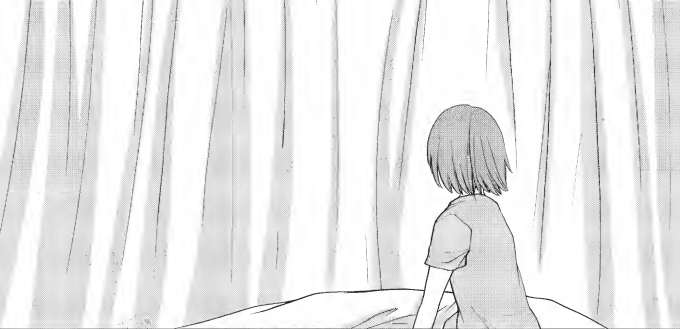
**I'M
ALIVE...**



SING

OW!

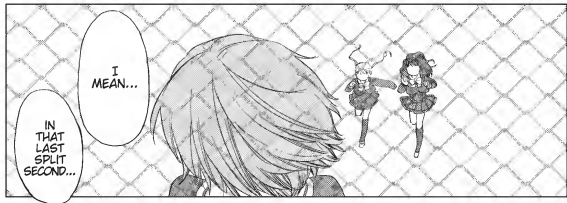
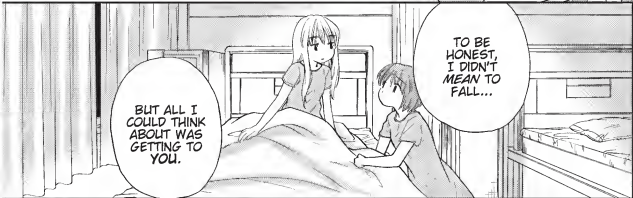






T-
T-
T-
T...







YOU
CALLED
OUT
TO ME,
RIGHT?





TOMARI-
CHAN...



TOMARI-
CHAN...



I THOUGHT
I'D NEVER
GET TO SEE
YOU AGAIN.

I...



I
THOUGHT
I'D NEVER
GET AN-
OTHER
CHANCE
TO TELL
YOU.

I
LOVE
YOU.





I WANT
IT TO BE
LIKE IT'S
ALWAYS
BEEN,
JUST YOU
AND ME...
TOGETHER...
ALWAYS...



JUST
LIKE
WE'VE
ALWAYS
DONE.

AND I
WANT
YOU TO
PROTECT
ME.



I WANT TO
PROTECT
YOU...



BUT...
I JUST
WANTED
TO TELL
YOU ONE
LAST TIME,
BEFORE
I--

I... I'M
SORRY...

BUT WE
CAN'T! IT
WON'T
HAPPEN! I-I
WON'T BE
HERE MUCH
LONGER.

TWITCH







I WON'T
EVER LET
YOU DIE...
EVER.



WHEN
THEY
FELL...

YES.



DIDN'T
YOU?

YOU DID
SOME-
THING...

UTILIZING
THAT INSTANT, I
SUCCESSFULLY
TRANSPLANTED
FATE GRAINS
FROM KURUSU
TOMARI TO
OSARAGI
HAZUMU.

THEIR
HEARTS
CALLED OUT
FOR EACH
OTHER,
MERGING
FOR ONE
BRIEF
INSTANT.

SHOULD THEIR
HEARTS NOT HAVE
MERGED, HAD ANY
DOUBT EXISTED
BETWEEN THEM,
OSARAGI HAZUMU
WOULD HAVE DIED
IN THAT FALL.

THE
TWO NOW
SHARE
ONE FATE.

BUT IT
TAKES THE
POWER OF
EMOTION
FOR THOSE
FATES TO
REMAIN
BOUND.

TECHNOLOGY
IS CAPABLE OF
CONNECTING
TWO FATES
TOGETHER.

SHOULD
LOVE EVER
ABANDON
OSARAGI
HAZUMU...

THEN ALL I
HAVE DONE
WILL BE
RENDERED
MEANING-
LESS.

A GOD?
HARDLY.

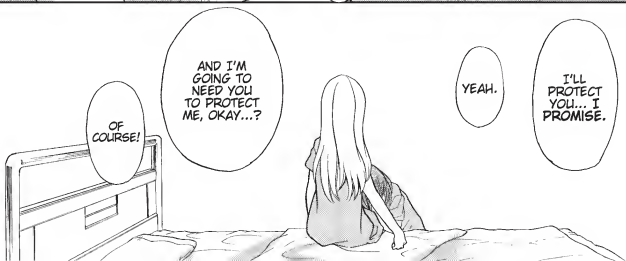
SO YOU
TRULY ARE
A GOD.

I AM
SIMPLY AN
OBSERVER
WHO HAS
TWICE NOW
INTERFERED
WITH A
PLANET'S
NATIVE
SPECIES.

THE
SECOND
INFRACTION
ENSURES I
WILL BE
PUNISHED.

HOWEV-
ER...

I HAVE
ALREADY
DONE AS
MUCH AS
I CAN.







OVER
AND
OVER.

LET'S KEEP
RECREATING
THAT INSTANT...



DOESN'T
IT HURT...?

MY HEART
MAY HAVE
ALREADY
BEEN DECIDED
IN THAT
MOMENT.

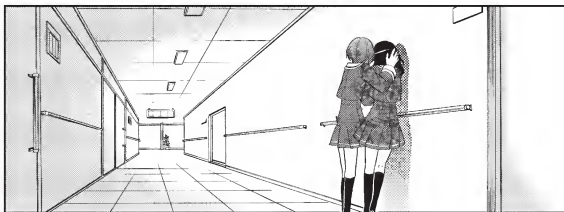
NOT AS
MUCH
AS I
THOUGHT
IT MIGHT.

I GUESS...

THAT'S
ENOUGH
FOR ME
TO BE
HAPPY...

ALIVE
AND
SMILING.

HAZUMU-
KUN IS
ALIVE.



#35 Kashimashi



WHAT'RE
YOU
GETTING
NERVOUS
FOR, YOU
PUTZ!
YOU'RE
NOT EVEN
PLAYING!

ACK!
I'M SO
NERVOUS
...!

YEAH.
I HEARD
THE LOCAL
NEWSPA-
PER'S
HERE
TOO.

MY. THE
CITY HALL
AUDITORI-
UM CAN
CERTAINLY
HOLD
QUITE A
FEW
PEOPLE.



Kashima High School
Woodwind Ensemble

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

TRUE...

YAAAAAY!

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

LOOK!
THERE'S
YASUNA!

CLAP

Y-

YEAH...

CLAP

Oh
god!

Oh
god!

IT'S
START-
ING!

CLAP



YASUNA-CHAN...



EVER SINCE
I GOT OUT
OF THE
HOSPITAL...

I'M GLAD
YOU'VE
GOTTEN
BETTER.



I NEED
TO TELL
YOU,
YASUNA-
CHAN.



I HAVE
SOME-
THING...

I HAVEN'T HAD A
SINGLE CHANCE
TO TALK WITH
YASUNA-CHAN.
SHE'S BEEN TOO
BUSY WITH
ENSEMBLE AND
REHEARSALS.

I COULDN'T
EVEN LISTEN TO
HER PRACTICE,
SINCE THE
ROOFTOP
ACROSS FROM
THE MUSIC
ROOM WAS
CLOSED OFF
BECAUSE OF
MY FALL.



IT'S
SOME-
THING I
HAVE
TO TELL
YOU.

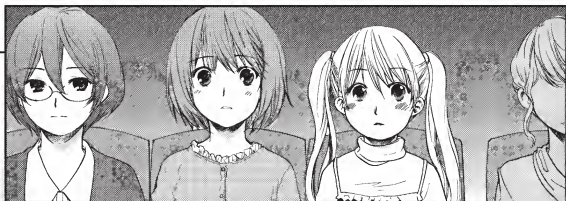


ARE YOU
LISTENING?

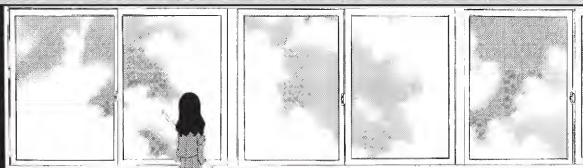
ARE YOU
THERE?

HAZUMI-
KUN...

IS TOMARI-
CHAN BY
YOUR SIDE?



ARE YOU
LISTENING
TO ME
TOGETHER?



THANK YOU FOR
GIVING ME THE
OPPORTUNITY TO
WATCH YOUR
FLOWERS GROW.

THANK YOU
SO MUCH FOR
LISTENING TO
ME PLAY.

HAZUMI-
KUN...



I LOVED
THAT YOU
COULD POUR
SO MUCH
LOVE INTO
ONE THING.



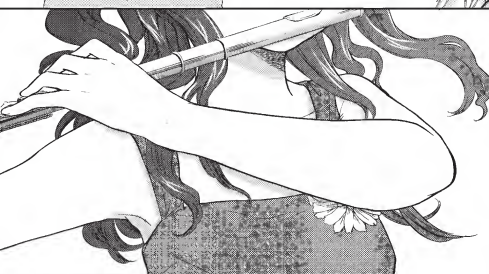
I LOVED THE
PART OF YOU
THAT CARED
SO MUCH
FOR YOUR
FLOWERS.



I WANTED
TO BLOOM
BY YOUR
HANDS,
JUST LIKE
THEY DID.



I LOVE YOU
BECAUSE
YOU CAN
PUT YOUR
ALL INTO
LOVING
SOMEONE.



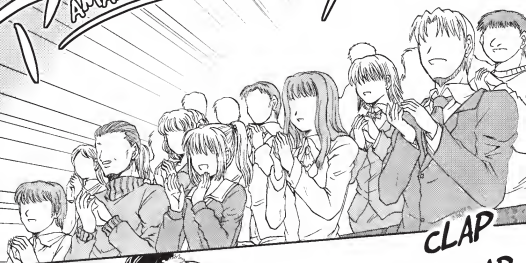
SO
PLEASE...



DON'T
EVER
LET THAT
HAND
GO.

PLEASE...

AMAZED



CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP



CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP



CLAP



CLAP

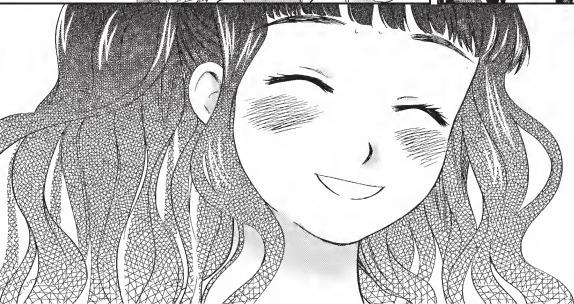
CLAP

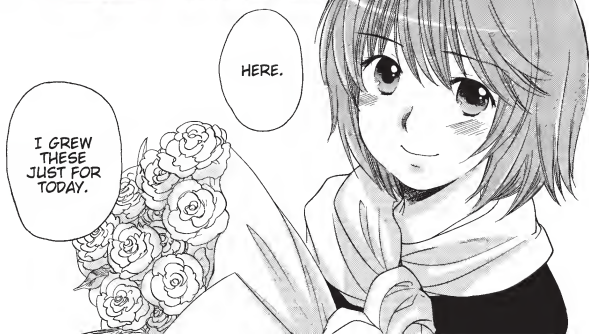


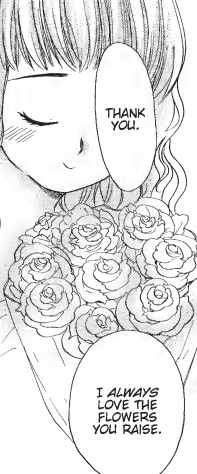
CLAP

CLAP

CLAP









I MADE IT
TO YOUR
CONCERT.

I...

YASUNA-
CHAN...

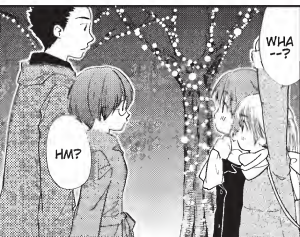


NO, THERE
ARE SOME
THINGS WE
NEED TO
SHOP FOR,
FIRST.

SO
WHAT'RE
YOU GUYS
GOING
TO DO?
GONNA
HEAD
STRAIGHT
TO THE
PARTY?

WHOA,
IT'S PITCH
BLACK OUT
ALREADY!





HM?

WHA
--?



YOU
TWO GO
ON AHEAD
WITHOUT
US. ALONE.



DRA. RIBBING
THEM IS NOT
NEARLY AS
ENTERTAINING,
NOW THAT THEY
DON'T OVERRE-
ACT EVERY TIME
WE SEND THEM
OFF ALONE
TOGETHER.

PUUU!



HN.
THAT
IT HAS.

IT'S
BEEN
QUITE
SOME
TIME,
SENSEI.

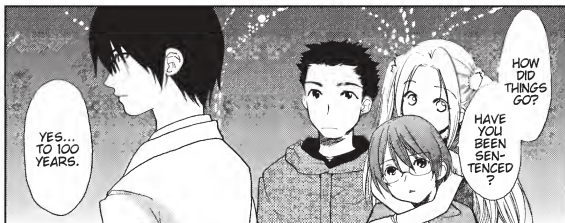
AYUKIN! ♡
AND ASUTA!
LONG TIME
NO SEE!



MY, IF
IT ISN'T
JAN-
PUU-
CHAN!



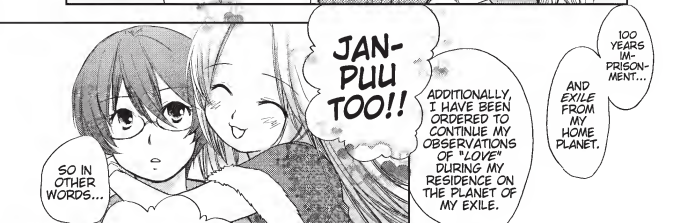
PUU! ♡



YES...
TO 100
YEARS.

HOW
DID
THINGS
GO?

HAVE
YOU
BEEN
SEN-
TENCED
?



SO IN
OTHER
WORDS...

JAN-
PUU
TOO!!

ADDITIONALLY,
I HAVE BEEN
ORDERED TO
CONTINUE MY
OBSERVATIONS
OF "LOVE"
DURING MY
RESIDENCE ON
THE PLANET OF
MY EXILE.

AND
EXILE
FROM
MY
HOME
PLANET.

100
YEARS
IM-
PRISON-
MENT...



YEP!!

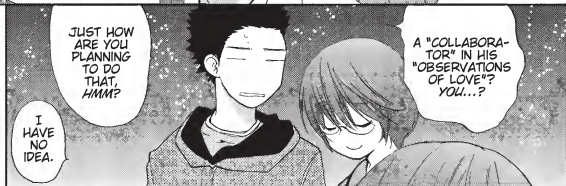
YOU WILL BE
STAYING HERE
ON OUR PLANET
FOR AT LEAST
THE NEXT
100 YEARS.
CORRECT?

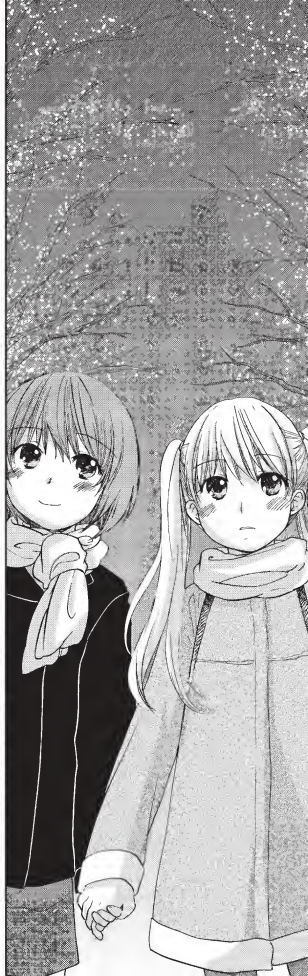
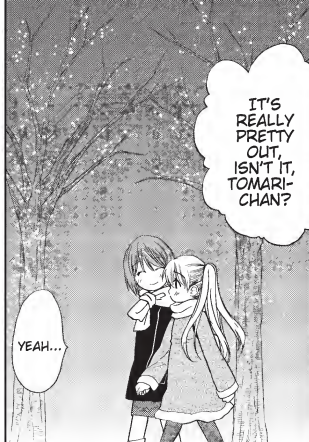


HN?

WILL YOU
NEED A HUMAN
COLLABORATOR
IN YOUR OBSER-
VATIONS?

A
QUESTION,
SENSEI...





"THANK
YOU."
THAT'S
IT.

THERE'S
NOTHING
ELSE I
COULD SAY.
NOTHING I
HAD THE
RIGHT TO,
ANYWAY.

I ONLY
HAD ONE
THING TO
SAY TO
YASUNA-
CHAN.

BUT
THAT
WAS
OKAY.
REALLY.

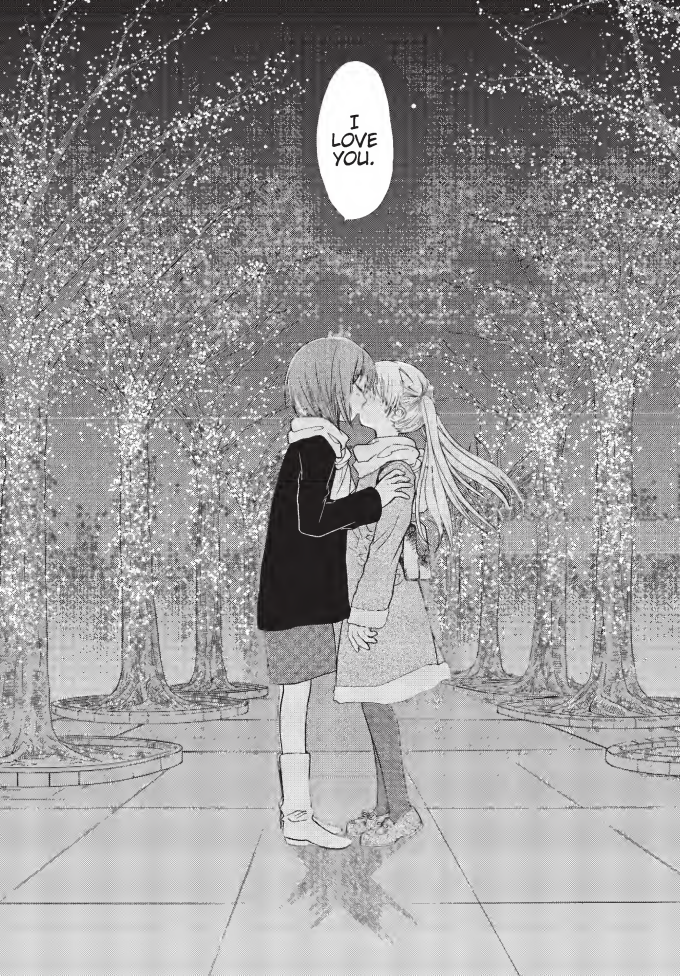
THANKS
FOR
WORRYING
ABOUT ME,
TOMARI-
CHAN.

A SMALL
HAND, HELD
IN MINE...

MY ANSWER
TO ANYTHING
ELSE IS ALL
RIGHT HERE.

A SMALL
GIRL WHO
HAS STOOD
BY MY SIDE,
PROTECTING
ME FOR
AS LONG
AS I CAN
REMEMBER.

I
LOVE
YOU.





HEE
HEE. I
KNOW.



I KNOW
YOU CAN'T
HELP IT,
BUT THAT
DOESN'T
MAKE YOU
ANY LESS
OF A PUTZ.

IT'S
OKAY
...



OOPS.
SORRY.

WE'RE
STILL IN
PUBLIC,
Y'KNOW!!



YEAH,
LET'S
GO!

EVERY-
BODY'S
WAITING
FOR US!

ANYWAY,
LET'S
HURRY
TO THE
PARTY,
OKAY?



PLEASE
LET ME
TAKE THIS
OPPORTU-
NITY...

GOOD
EVENING,
EVERY-
ONE!

OH,
WHAT A
WONDER-
FUL,
SPLENDID
DAY IT
IS!!

TOMORROW
IS NOT ONLY
CHRISTMAS
DAY, BUT IT
IS ALSO MY
BIRTHDAY!

TO PERSONALLY
THANK YOU ALL
FOR GRACIOUSLY
ATTENDING THIS
CHRISTMAS EVE
PARTY THAT I,
TSUKI NAMIKO,
AM THROWING
FOR MYSELF!♡

AS OF
TOMOR-
ROW, IT
WILL BE
36 BOY-
FRIEND-
LESS
YEARS!

I, TSUKI
NAMIKO,
HAVE SPENT
THE FIRST 35
YEARS OF MY
LIFE TOTALLY
BEREFT OF A
BOYFRIEND!

Well, you did
say there'd
be free
food...

I FEEL SO
BLESSED!
THANK YOU,
EVERYONE!
THANK
YOU!!

THAT I HAVE
THE OPPORTU-
NITY TO SPEND
SUCH A MOMEN-
TOUS DAY SUR-
ROUNDED BY
MY BELOVED
STUDENTS...
AAAAH...

Cheers!

OOOH, A
VERY MERRY
BIRTHDAY
TOOOO
MEEEEE~!!!

SNICKER

WHAT
ON EARTH
ARE YOU
GRINNING
ABOUT?

SNICKER

Hm...

BUT... BUT...
SORA-SENSEI?!
WHY DO YOU NOT
ACKNOWLEDGE
MY FEELINGS
FOR YOU?!!

NAMIKO

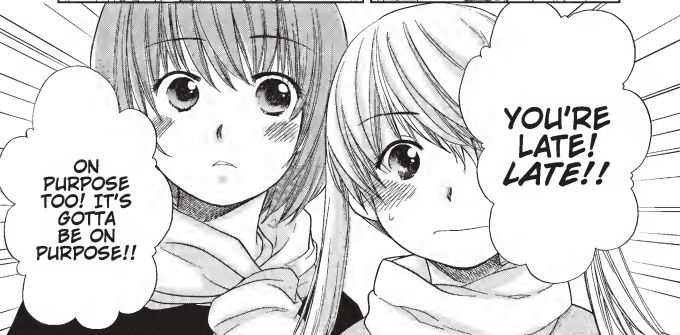
HM?

HERE! GET
A LOAD OF
HER!
ISN'T SHE
PERFECT?!

I'M
TURNING
OVER A
NEW LEAF,
LIVING FOR A
NEW LOVE!

WE'VE EVEN
TRADED E-MAIL
ADDRESSES
ALREADY!

HEH. I'M NOT
GOING TO BE
THE SAME OLD
ME FOREVER,
YOU KNOW!



"KASHI-
MASHI."



Kashimashi
~Girl Meets Girl~
THE END



THANK
YOU!

For
picking up
this manga,
and for
meeting
these girls.

AND
YOU.

COSPA
SUKUNE
INUGAMI-
SAMA

DENGEKI
PAIOH
EDITORS
KUBOTA-SAMA
KONDO-SAMA



YUKI-
MARU



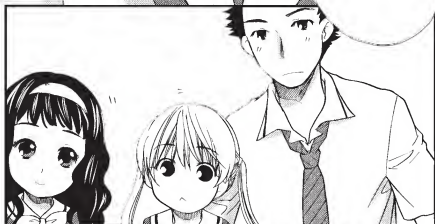
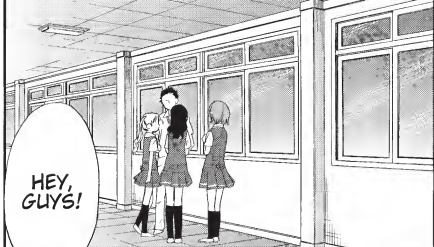
KASHIMASHI
~GIRL MEETS GIRL~
STORY BY SATORU AKAHORI
ART BY YUKIMARU KATSURA

STAFF
RYU KISARAGI
MIZUKI TACHIBANA

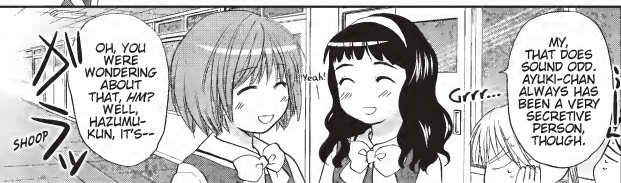
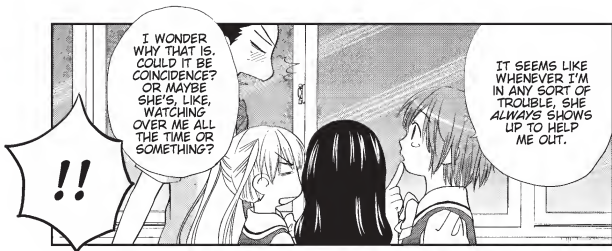


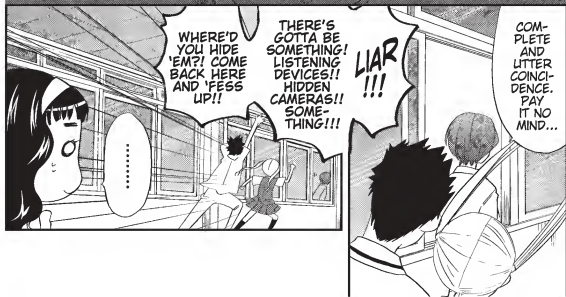
Secret 1

The Secret of Her Arrivals



Special #5 Secretive Ayuki-chan





I SUGGEST
YOU KEEP
YOUR
HACKING
OF SPY
SATELLITES
TO A
MINIMUM.

FSH

YES,
SIR...

pi
pi

HOW
WEIRD!

WOW,
SO IT IS
ALL JUST
COINCIDENCE.

ABOUT
THAT
WINDOW
AYUKI-CHAN
STOOD
OUTSIDE OF...
WE'RE ON THE
4TH FLOOR,
RIGHT?

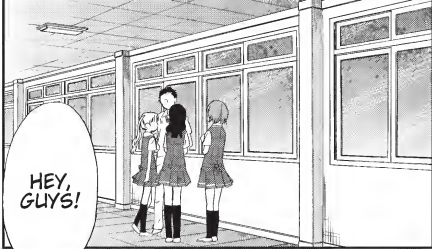
EH...?

UM,
HAZUMU-
KUN...?

THE END

Secret 2

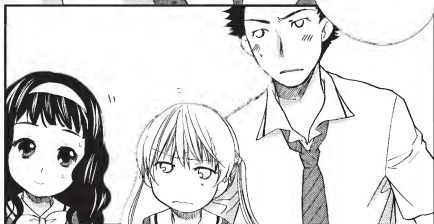
The Secret of Her Club

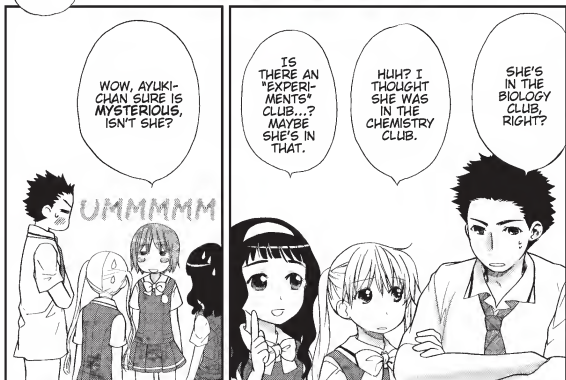


HEY,
GUYS!



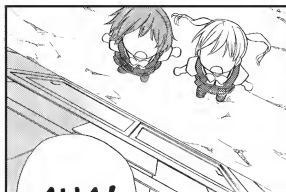
THERE'S
SOMETHING
I'VE BEEN
WONDERING
ABOUT AYUKI-
CHAN FOR A
REALLY LONG
TIME.





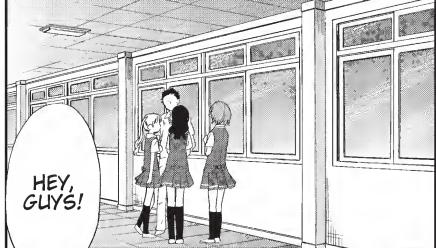


AHA! THAT WAY
WE CAN FIGURE
OUT WHAT CLUB
SHE'S IN! GREAT
IDEA, TOMARI!





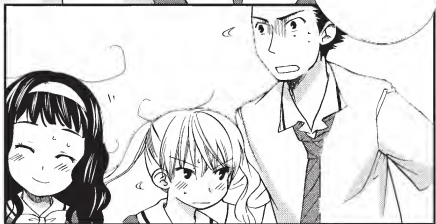
Secret 3 The Secret of the Two of Them



HEY,
GUYS!



THERE'S
SOMETHING
I'VE BEEN
WONDERING
ABOUT AYUKI-
CHAN FOR A
REALLY LONG
TIME.



WELL, YOU
KNOW, IF YOU
REALLY THINK
ABOUT IT, SHE
HANGS AROUND
WITH ASUTA AN
AWFUL LOT,
DOESN'T SHE?

ACK!

O-OH,
REALLY?
SO, ER,
WHAT HAVE
YOU BEEN
WONDERING
ABOUT
AYUKI?

NO WAY!
AYUKI
CRUSHING
ON ASUTA?!

**WHAT?!
SHE
IS?!!**

MAYBE
SHE'S
HIDING A
CRUSH
ON HIM...

? Hell no!
Impossible!

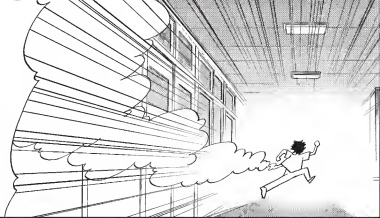
hee
hee
hee

**AHH!
THERE
SHE IS!!**

OH, IS
THAT WHAT
YOU'RE
WONDERING
ABOUT?
THERE'S
NOTHING
ODD TO
IT AT ALL,
REALLY.



**NO,
THANK
YOUUUU
~!!**



EH?

PROPOSE
TO
ASUTA?



ERM... DID
AYUKI-CHAN
JUST...



THE END☆

**Omake ♡
NAMIKO'S SECRET ♡**

SORA-
SENSEI!!!~!!



AAAAHHH!

Oh,
woe...
woe...

I HOPE
SENSEI'S
COMES
AROUND
SOON.

ME
TOO.

WELL...
THEY SAY THAT
EVERYBODY WILL
HAVE A "POPUL-
ARITY PERIOD"
AT SOME TIME IN
THEIR LIFE, WHEN
IT'S REALLY EASY
FOR THEM TO
GET DATES.

MY TIME IS
YET TO COME!!
I WILL HAVE
A "POPULARITY
PERIOD"!!
I MUST!!!

SOME
PEOPLE
NEVER
HAVE ONE,
ACTUALLY.

HEY!!
WHORE
YOU
LOOK-
ING
AT?

WHY'D
YOU
LOOK
OVER
THIS
WAY
WHEN
YOU
SAID
THAT?!

CHEER
UP, SENSEI.
I'M SURE
YOU'LL GET
ONE SOME
DAY.

MY
DAYS AS A
STUDENT
WERE
EMPTY AND
BLEAK...

NO, NOT
EVEN A
GLIMMER
OF ONE.

HM,
WHAT
ABOUT
IN HIGH
SCHOOL OR
COLLEGE
...?

AAHH!
SORA-
SENSEI!!!
~!!

IF ONLY
IT WOULD
COME
SOON!
SOON!!

THEN
I...! I,
TSUKI
NAMIKO,
COULD...!
WITH...!
WITH...!

Whaaa...

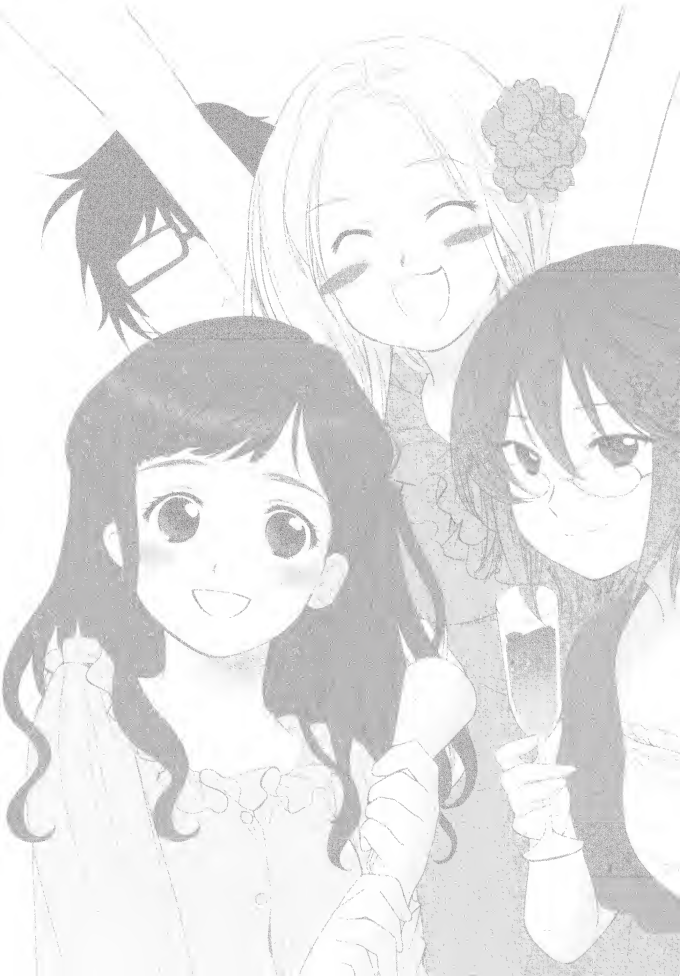
BY THE WAY,
THIS WAS
HER PHYSICAL
APPEARANCE
DURING
ADOLESCENCE.

CLK



Secretive Ayuki-chan
THE END







JAPANESE HONORIFICS GUIDE

To ensure that all character relationships appear as they were originally intended, all character names have been kept in their original Japanese name order with family name first and given name second. For copyright reasons, creator names appear in standard English name order.

In addition to preserving the original Japanese name order, Seven Seas is committed to ensuring that honorifics—polite speech that indicates a person’s status or relationship towards another individual—are retained within this book. Politeness is an integral facet of Japanese culture and we believe that maintaining honorifics in our translations helps bring out the same character nuances as seen in the original work.

The following are some of the more common honorifics you may come across while reading this and other books:

-san – The most common of all honorifics, it is an all-purpose suffix that can be used in any situation where politeness is expected. Generally seen as the equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs., etc.

-sama – This suffix is one level higher than “-san” and is used to confer great respect upon an individual.

-dono – Stemming from the word “tono,” meaning “lord,” “-dono” signifies an even higher level than “-sama,” and confers the utmost respect.

-kun – This suffix is commonly used at the end of boys’ names to express either familiarity or endearment. It can also be used when addressing someone younger than oneself or of a lower status.

-chan – Another common honorific. This suffix is mainly used to express endearment towards girls, but can also be used when referring to little boys or even pets. Couples are also known to use the term amongst each other to convey a sense of cuteness and intimacy.

Sempai – This title is used towards one’s senior or “superior” in a particular group or organization. “Sempai” is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to upperclassmen as “sempai,” though it is also commonly said by employees when addressing fellow employees who hold seniority in the workplace.

Kouhai – This is the exact opposite of “sempai,” and is used to refer to underclassmen in school, junior employees at the workplace, etc.

Sensei – Literally meaning “one who has come before,” this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.





Oniisan – This title literally means “big brother.” First and foremost, it is used by younger siblings towards older male siblings. It can be used by itself or attached to a person’s name as a suffix (-niisan). It is often used by a younger person toward an older person unrelated by blood, but as a sign of respect. Other forms include the informal “oniichan” and the more respectful “oniisama.”

Onesasan – This title is the opposite of “Oniisan” and means “big sister.” Other forms include the informal “oneechan” and the more respectful “onesasama.”

TRANSLATION NOTES

■ Page 18, Panel 1

A *bokken* is a wooden katana, used in practicing kendo forms.

■ Page 39, Panel 1

Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arrangement. It has a long history as one of the arts that women traditionally studied in preparation for marriage. Today, *ikebana* is still practiced at ceremonies and parties, and taught at specialty schools.

■ Page 80, Panel 4

Dango are sticky dumplings made from rice flour, often served three or four at a time on a skewer. They come in many different flavors and seasonings. *Koshian* is strained sweet-bean paste, and *Tsubuan* is sweet-bean jelly.

■ Page 91, Panel 4

The *jian* is a mythological Chinese bird that has only one eye and one wing. Two of these birds fuse together to become one whole bird. If one half should die, the other dies soon afterwards. They’re considered to symbolize the bond between husband and wife in marriage.

■ Page 166, Panel 1

“*Kashimashi*” literally means “noisy” or “chatty.” Ayuki is referring to an old Japanese proverb: “When three women gather, it’s kashimashii.” This saying is also where we get the title of this series from, the three women being Yasuna, Tomari, and Hazumu.





Kashimashi

~Girl Meets Girl~

VOLUME 5

story by Satoru Akahori art by Yukimaru Katsura
original character design Sukune Inugami

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Kashimashi ~Girl Meets Girl~ Vol. 5
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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1





THE END

YOU'RE READING THE WRONG WAY

This is the last page of
Kashimashi Volume 5.



This book reads from right to left, Japanese style. To read from the beginning, flip the book over to the other side, start with the top right panel, and take it from there.

If this is your first time reading manga, just follow the diagram. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get used to it! Have fun!

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